Community Board No. 8  
Public School 9  
80 Underhill Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11216  

November 10, 2016

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammed  
Helen Coley  
Dian Duke  
James Ellis  
Diana Foster  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Elijah Gray  
Curtis Harris  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Robert Matthews  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Robert Puca  
Yahya O. Raji  
Adams Sachs  
Meredith Staton  
Edison Stewart  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**Members Absent/Excused**

Mary Aikens-Reed  
Desmond Atkins  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Michael Cox  
Phu Duong  
Andrea Ferris  
Crystal Hudson  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Elaine Mahoney  
Stacey Sheffey  
Sheryl Vassell  
Deborah Young

**Elected Officials**

District Leader Ola Alabi, 57th A.D.

**Elected Official Representatives**

Elisa Helligar, Senator Hamilton’s Office  
Karen Chambers, District Attorney’s Office  
Carl Luciano, Councilwoman Mealy’s Office  
Shellawn Serrett, Councilman Corney’s Office  
Joseph Yanis, Assemblyman Mosley’s Office  
Matthew Pitt, Councilwoman Cumbo’s Office

**CB 8 Staff Present**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator  
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant

The general meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order by Ms. Granville at 7:05 PM

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

**Correspondence** – Community Board 8 newsletter and other information was distributed to the community.
Ms. Granville asked for a presentation from Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council on the Vanderbilt Avenue Historic Lighting Project.

**Vanderbilt Avenue Historic Lighting Project – Mr. Gib Veconi**

Mr. Veconi stated that this project was created by the NYC Department of Transportation, Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council, and the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office and will take place along Vanderbilt Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Plaza Street.

The goal of the project will improve the streetscape for retail use, complimenting existing historic fabric of Vanderbilt Avenue, adding visual continuity to connect blocks with historic fabric to those with new construction, and making a connection with Grand Army Plaza and Eastern Parkway. The project will also include the installation of new lamp posts, traffic signal posts, and pedestrian signal posts.

Dr. Monderson asked how this project is being funded. Mr. Veconi responded that it is being funded by the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office under a capital grant.

Residents asked if the lighting fixtures will have new LED light bulbs and if the illuminants will remain the same. A DOT representative responded that they will be installed with the new LED lights which are now standard with the same amount of illuminants.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support this project. It was seconded by Ms. Andrews and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 3 opposed with 3 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Veconi and asked for a brief presentation from Mr. Jelani Maseriki.

**Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ) - Mr. Jelani Mashariki, Director**

Mr. Mashariki, Director of Pamoja House, reported that the Pamoja House Men’s Shelter is a 200 bed facility which is run by Black Veterans for Social Justice and provides shelter for homeless veterans. One of the projects that BSVJ is currently working on will provide homeless men the opportunity to volunteer their services to the community. This will assist businesses and organizations with their needs. This initiative will not only help these men become integrated into society but it will teach them the value of becoming more involved in their communities. BVSJ will be conducting outreach to different organizations in the community in an effort to bring this project to fruition. Some of the organizations include, but are not limited to, community gardens, local businesses and institutions.

Mr. Mashariki also mentioned that Black Veterans for Social Justice offers an array of services to veterans in the community including assistance with housing, clinic services, mental health services and employment opportunities. They also offer assistance to veteran immigrants, incarcerated veterans, homeless female veterans, and families of veterans.

He encouraged anyone interested in any of their services to reach out to Mr. David Morris, the Community Engagement Coordinator, at 718-852-6004 or by visiting www.bvsj.org. The Pamoja House Shelter is located at 665 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Mashariki and asked for a report from the following committees:

**Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, however, the committee did not submit minutes. The next Economic Development Committee
meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 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, October 18, 2016 at the Community Board 8 Office but did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 15, 2016 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee brings forth a motion on behalf of the Brooklyn Borough Board, which introduced a resolution to address unsafe and illegal conversions of buildings in NYC. The Borough Board is made up of CB Chairpersons, elected officials, the Borough President’s office, and other officials. The information on the Borough Board’s resolution was mailed to each Board member in advance of the meeting for review so that members can make an informed decision. Ms. Granville, Chairperson, will represent the Board’s position at the December 6th Borough Board meeting.

As a brief overview of the legislation, Intro. 1218 has been introduced to the City Council which would strengthen enforcement mechanisms against illegal conversions and the proposed legislation would subject violators to a minimum civil penalty of $15,000 for each dwelling unit that is converted, maintained, or occupied illegally. It would allow the City to sell any tax liens imposed on a building. The full draft resolution is attached to these action items. The committee is recommending that the Board take a position on Intro. 1218.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Ellis made a motion to approve the Executive committees’ recommendation to support Intro. 1218. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

**Health and Human Services Committee**

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, November 7, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, however, the committee did not submit minutes for November. The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 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**

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair Ms. Nizjoni Granville and Vice-Chair, Ms. Ethel Tyus, present were: LeeAnn Banks, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Crystal Hudson, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Yahya O. Raji, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Iris Weatherspoon, and Deborah Young. Also present were: Thomas Barry, Frank Berlen, Alexandra Heron, Julie Liu, Marion Martin, Musa Moore, Nina Psoncak, Alejandro Rodriguez, Gustavo Sandoval, and Donald White.

The committee discussed the following applications:

**Application to LPC for a CoA for Replacement Windows at 1265 Dean Street (Crown Heights North Historic District)**
Julie Liu, owner of 1265 Dean Street at New York Avenue, presented her proposal to be submitted the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) to replace approximately 19 windows. The property is a Romanesque Revival style corner limestone building designed by Albert E. White and completed c.1892. The project is to install rectangular simulated double-hung, triple-pane, low-E, argon-filled, solid mahogany wood-frame windows that tilt and turn. The windows have a lower heat conductance than traditionally constructed windows. Ms. Liu explained that the stained glass window replacements were largely completed already. She also explained that for her 21 arched windows extensive pricing negotiations had been held with the manufacturer, Klearwall “Passive House Institute Certified” Windows, to reduce the price by including an adequate number of other similar projects throughout the City. The larger number of customers will facilitate the manufacture by making it more cost effective for both the maker and buyers. Ms. Liu’s remaining windows will be included in a later project as circumstances permit. The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter of support for the project.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously 17 in favor to support the project as presented. The application is scheduled for a hearing before LPC on November 15, 2016. The Committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

After a brief question and answer period Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raji and carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, none opposed, with 1 abstention.

**Application to LPC for a CoA for a Rooftop Addition at 576 Vanderbilt Ave (Prospect Heights Historic District)**

Thomas Barry, RA, of OperA Studio Architecture and Frank Berlen presented plans for construction of a penthouse and HVAC mechanicals roof addition at 574-576 Vanderbilt Avenue, a Romanesque Revival/Renaissance Revival style mixed-used structure aka 638 Bergen Street. It was developed by Daniel O’Connell and his architect Timothy Remsen c. 1891. The project would add a 300 SF penthouse that is visible from across Bergen Street and a terrace. At less than 500 SF, the proposed penthouse will not be a full story which would require an elevator. The full building interior renovation will include the commercial space on the ground floor, a new roof terrace for the second floor apartment, and a penthouse with a powder room and terrace on the roof for the fourth floor apartment. The residential units may be rentals or condos.

Neighbors at 636 Bergen Street complained that their home was being damaged by the construction being done. They complained of cracks in their abutting plumbing stack and a provided a photo of a connection into their roof drainage line without their permission. Direct contact information for the owner, 576 Vanderbilt Avenue LLC’s Managing Partner was solicited. The owners of 636 Bergen Street, Ms. Heron and Mr. Sandoval, were asked to provide their phone number to the LLC owner’s representative, Mr. Berlen, and that discussions be had aimed at addressing property damage concerns enumerated during the meeting. A review of ACRIS records subsequent to the meeting shows the owner’s contact and address of record as Christopher Palmese, 576 Vanderbilt Avenue LLC, 1350 60th Street, Brooklyn 11219. A review of Department of Buildings’ records shows that an application for a rooftop addition was denied. Regarding notice to other abutting owners, Mr. Berlen explained that a registered mail notice sent to 578 Vanderbilt Avenue was returned as the owner does not reside there. The applicant was asked to send a second notice by regular mail with a certificate of mailing and provide a copy of that certificate to the CB 8 office prior to the full Board meeting on Nov.10th.

The committee entertained a motion to support the project with the following conditions:

- make the color and texture of the materials cladding the penthouse less reflective than the proposed galvalume;
- make the color(s) darker;
reduce the number of glass panels facing Vanderbilt Avenue;
increase the set-back to provide additional privacy;
add plantings on the terrace border as a green buffer; and
reduce the penthouse bulk.

This motion resulted in a tie vote at eight in favor, seven opposed and one abstention.
A follow-up motion to withhold support failed at 12 against, one abstention and five in favor.
A motion to table was supported with 15 in favor and two against.

Mr. Barry was advised that the Committee hoped that he would return with project revisions. A motion was not made to send a letter to LPC apprising the Commission of the Committee’s concerns. The application is scheduled for a hearing before LPC on November 15, 2016.

Mr. Stewart asked if any of the complaints made by neighbors were taken into consideration. Ms. Tyus assured him that they indeed were.

Mr. Puca asked why the applicant came before the Housing/ULURP Committee if they were already denied by the NYC Department of Buildings. Ms. Tyus responded that some applicants can go before LPC and then back to DOB. Mr. Veconi also reiterated this point and added that for applicants to go back and forth between Landmarks Preservation Corporation and DOB before gaining approval is very common.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to table the item with the condition that no letter be sent to LPC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foster and carried to a final tally of 30 in favor, 2 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

In addition, Mr. Alejandro Rodriguez attended with materials describing his project for 860 St. Johns Place. His presentation was not heard as he did not announce his presence and his item was not on the agenda. Ms. Young noted his presence and advised him to communicate with the Board office to be placed on the agenda for December.

**M-CROWN Sub-Committee Update**

Mr. Veconi gave a brief update describing the November 2, 2016 MCROWN Subcommittee meeting. Borough Office Executives from the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) presented an update on their plan for a new mixed-use zone for Community Board 8 in the MCROWN area, as well as an update on the North Brooklyn Study. Councilwoman Cumbo was in attendance as well as the City Council’s and the Borough President’s Land Use Directors. DCP is now interested in adding portions of Community Board 3 on the north side of Atlantic Ave to the study. DCP plans to have financial feasibility analyses completed by December 2016. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/23/16.

The M-Crown Sub-Committee meets every 4th Monday of the month at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend. There will be no meeting in the month of December.

The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are welcomed to attend.

**Parks and Recreation Committee**

The Parks and Recreation Committee met on Thursday, October 4, 2016 and Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at St. Johns Recreation Center. In addition to the chair Ms. Glinda Andrews, present were: Janice Purvis, Alex Bayer, Carolyn Johnson, John S. Practicum, Thomas Montford, Joel Wolfram, Vilma Zuniga, Julia Boyd,
Ms. Purvis, a resident of Community District 8, proposed that several city-owned lots located on Prospect Place between Kingston and Albany Avenues be turned into community gardens. The 598 Acres organization is supporting the idea and signatures are already being collected in support of the project. Ms. Purvis is requesting a letter of support from Community Board No. 8 and was informed that a project proposal be submitted and a presentation made before the committee. She also mentioned that they are open to partnering with other organizations and are seeking volunteers to spearhead the projects. There will be an awareness event sometime in the near future and additional information will be given at a later date.

Ms. Robyn Berland from Friends of Brower Park reported that the seeding process of the grass at Brower Park has been completed. The fencing around the newly seeded area will be there until June 2017. However, policing the area has become an issue as the dog walking in the area continues to be a challenge. A proposal to designate a new location specifically for dog walking purposes is being taken into consideration.

Mr. Ronald Taylor of the NYC Department of Parks informed the committee that the seeded area at Brower Park will have permanent fencing in the future. He suggests that anyone interested in finding an alternative dog run should look into Von King Park.

The committee also discussed capital project initiatives at the St. John’s Recreation Center. The center staff has also announced that they have introduced East Wick Baseball to their list of activities.

The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 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, October 17, 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, Myra, Judith Campbell, Frank Hadgson, P.O. Laverne Green, Shirley Mondesir, Lorraine Clarke, and Curtis Harris.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that since the implementation of Vision Zero and the installation of recent bike lanes, traffic has continued to move at a slower rate not only in District 8 but across the borough. This can create a safety issue.

PO Green from the Community Affairs Unit at the 77th Precinct announced that last year the precinct held a highly successful Police/Community Forum. They are looking to organize another one this year.

NYPD warned residents to look out for IRS phone scams. The IRS issued a consumer alert to help people protect themselves from telephone scammers. These callers may demand money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. They may know a lot about you and usually alter the caller ID to make it seem like the IRS is calling.

The following is a list of things to help you recognize that the callers may not be from the IRS:

- If they demand immediate payment without first having mailed you a bill.
- If they demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal.
- If they ask for credit or debit card number information over the phone.
If they threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you think that you received an IRS scam call, please report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General by calling 1-800-366-4484.

It was also announced that Deputy Inspector Eddie Lott is no longer with the 77th Precinct. He left in early October for a new position at 1 Police Plaza. Captain Isa Abbassi has taken over as the new Commanding Officer at the 77th Precinct.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 21, 2016 at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

Seniors Committee

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at David Chavis Residence. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammed, present were: Essie Spivey, Frances Langley, Julia Boyd, Xeerxeema Jordan, Vilma Zuniga, Annabelle Boyd, Glinda Andrews, Regina Kinsey, Diana Foster, Elijah Gray, Esther McLean, Annette Jones, Faye Jones, Mary Hodnett, Linda Ferrett, Brenda Green, Clarine Miller, Ida Golson, Leola Mills, Jerome Michaux, Carolyn Johnson, and Mary Aikens-Reed.

Ms. Branch-Muhammed informed the committee that on November 6, 2016, there will be a co-naming event on Rogers Avenue at the corner of Eastern Parkway that will honor Dr. Reverend Clarence Norman and his wife Mrs. Ellen Norman. She also announced that numerous elected officials collaborated to host the Celebration of Praise Musical Concert taking place on Sunday November 13, 2016. Tickets are being provided by Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, Borough President Adams, and a host of other elected officials.

Ms. Jessica Bailey, Director of Community Action Program at Watchful Eye, made a presentation on HIV/AIDS awareness. She explained the four ways of contracting the virus and the importance of getting tested. She expressed that the percentage of people contracting the virus who are age 50 and above is spiking. This is partially because many may have caught the virus earlier in their lives but never got tested for the disease. While promoting the use of condoms, Ms. Bailey noted that many seniors still have sex and advised them to engage in safe sexual practices. After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Bailey distributed shopping bags, HIV/AIDS awareness t-shirts, and condoms to the seniors while encouraging them to help keep their bodies safe.

Reverend Stacy Latimer of Watchful Eye Organization also expressed his concerns about the dangers of the virus and the effects it has on seniors. He explained that later in life a heightened sense of awareness is crucial to prevention. Both Ms. Bailey and Reverend Latimer encouraged testing which is available through Watchful Eye. For additional information, please contact either of them at 347-533-4300.

Mr. Clarke from Assemblywoman Richardson’s encouraged residents to get more involved in the “Civic Minded” initiative by joining Assemblywoman Richardson and other elected officials to oppose the Bedford Union Armory project and demand real housing affordability. The event to oppose the Bedford Union Armory will take place on November 15, 2016 at Middle School 61 located at 400 Empire Boulevard from 6:30-8:00PM.

He also announced upcoming events that the Assemblywoman is sponsoring. For more information, please call their office at 718-771-3105.
The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee**

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, November 7, 2016 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, Cheryl Brown, Fred Frazier, Jamie Hardt, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Robert Witherwax.

The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. **New Applications:**

   a. **Meme’s Diner, 657 Washington Ave (St. Marks/Bergen) –Full**

      i. Details as presented:
         1. 35 seat restaurant/bar
         2. Hours of Operation: 8AM-1AM, seven days a week
         3. Backyard seating area: 30 seats, 8 AM to 11 PM seven days a week
         4. 500 foot hearing will be necessary

      ii. Neighbor Issues Raised:
         1. Oversaturation of alcohol-serving establishments on northern residential end of Washington
         2. Concerns about sound, smoking, safety, exhaust.
         3. Especially rear yard and proximity to windows/bedrooms of residents.

      iii. Applicant Response to the 500 foot statement:
         1. Few places open for breakfast, lunch
         2. Will be a restaurant that serves alcohol, not a bar
         3. Willing to work with community to address noise, quality of life concerns

   The committee voted 12 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the application with the following stipulations and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation:

      a. No amplified sound in rear yard
      b. Front windows to be closed by 10 PM
      c. 20 seats maximum in rear yard
      d. Rear yard hours of operation: 9AM-10PM Monday thru Thursday, 9AM-11PM Friday, 10AM-11PM Saturday, 10AM-10PM Sunday

   Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final tally of 23 in favor, 3 opposed, with 8 abstentions.

   b. **Cocks Bajan, 806 Nostrand Ave (Lincoln/St. John’s) – Beer and Wine**

      Details as presented:

      i. Hours of operation Mon-Sat 10AM-10PM
      ii. 30 seats, No outdoor space

   The committee voted 12 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the application as presented and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.
Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. It was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried to a final tally of 32 in favor, none opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next SLAC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Dr. Fred Monderson and Vice-Chair, Mr. Robert Witherwax, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Holly Fuchs, Meredith Staton, Regina Kinsay, Julia Boyd, Elijah Gray, Erik Monderson, Phu Duong, Elizabeth Haines, Mark Thurton, B. LaPointe, Debra Brown, Desmond Atkins, James Caldwell, Alex Rodriguez, Tom Bishop, Catherine Okeke, Deborah Young, Dorothy G. Lee, Vivian Ferguson, Bob Diamond, Sharon Rozsay, Frances Bell Henry, and Bob Henry.

The committee discussed safety issues and congestion along Sterling and St. Johns Places and voiced their concerns due to the newly installed bike lanes. Some of the concerns expressed were double-parking and cars parked in the middle of the street to avoid the bike lane, thus creating issues with passing vehicles. Residents expressed that the street is simply too narrow for a bike lane, and because double parking happens too often on these blocks during alternate side parking days, emergency vehicles are unable to get through. DOT has been invited to attend an upcoming transportation committee meeting to revisit this issue.

The committee also discussed a petition for a co-naming for the Sterling Place and Classon Avenue intersection for Frank and Doris Bell of Bell Funeral Home. Many expressed their support of the co-naming which included a 300 signature petition. The committee made a motion to support the co-naming of Sterling Place and Classon Avenue intersection to “Frank and Doris Bell Way”, and implored that special consideration be given because one of the two honorees is deceased and the other is age 95. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and passed unanimously. It will be an action item at the December general meeting.

The next Transportation Committee 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. They will not be meeting during the months of November and December due to holiday conflicts. All are invited to attend.

**Youth and Education Committee**

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the chair, Ms. Sharon Wedderburn and Vice-Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah present were: Pegye Johnson, Katie Mazer, Yahya O. Raji, Betty Davis, Desmond Atkins, Adjua Starks, and Xeerxeema Jordan.

Ms. Wedderburn mentioned the significance of an initiative set forth by former District Attorney Kenneth Thompson that pushed for decriminalizing low-level drug infractions. The initiative will eliminate the chances of minors entering the criminal justice system and would also make people that normally would not qualify for a Pell Grant due to a felony conviction eligible for the grant.

Ms. Wedderburn has put forth four initiatives to address major areas the Committee should focus on. They are Foster Care/Homeless Youth, Youth Development, School Improvement and Collaboration. Each initiative plays a major role in the development of the students within our district.

The committee is also planning to have a College Fair in either February or March 2017. Ms. Wedderburn encouraged outreach about the event to as many students as possible.
The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 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 she opened the floor for public comments.

**District Leader Olanike Alabi** of the 57th Assembly District announced that on Saturday, November 19, 2016 she and Senator Jesse Hamilton will be hosting a Fire Safety event to teach the community about smoke/fire detection and offer safety guidelines. The event will take place at the Ebbets Field Community Center located at 1700 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 11AM to 1PM. For additional information, please contact Senator Hamilton’s Office at 718-284-4700.

She also announced that on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 community residents will be given an opportunity to express their concerns and address the issues that they find important in their community now that the new President has been elected. This session will focus solely on how we as a community can organize and move forward. It will take place at the St. Francis School for the Deaf located at 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for the information and adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). All are invited to attend.

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**GUESTS**

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