

**Community Board No. 8
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
856 Pacific Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

April 9, 2015

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Dian Duke
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Curtis Harris
Philip Hawkins
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Patricia Scantlebury
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Greg Yerman
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Julia Boyd
Dr. Flize Bryan
Phu Duong
Jamell Henderson
Xeerxeema Jordan
Dr. Fred Monderson
Mary Reed
Stacey Sheffey
Rohon Williams

Elected Officials Present

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, 35th Council District
Judge Michael Gerstein, Brooklyn Criminal Court

Elected Official Representatives

Karen Crawford, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
Brian McLaurin, Public Advocate's Office
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke's Office
Akhurapa Ambak, Councilman Cornegy's Office
Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery's Office
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilwoman Cumbo's Office
Kathleen Daniel, Borough President Eric Adams Office
Nora Daniels, Councilwoman Mealy's Office
Joseph Yanis, Assemblyman Mosely's Office
Raul Rothblatt, Senator Hamilton's Office

CB 8 Staff Present

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

The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Granville, Chairperson.

Acceptance of Minutes – The chair asked for a motion to accept last months minutes with any necessary corrections. Mr. Matthews made a motion to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for an update on the LINK NYC program from the NYC Dept. of Information, Technology and Telecommunications.

Dept. of Information, Technology, and Telecommunications (DOITT) – Mr. Patrick Fergus, Director of Community Affairs

Mr. Fergus announced that DOITT has a new franchise to replace the Public Pay Telephone (PPT) called LINK NYC/CityBridge, which is a proposal to leverage old payphone infrastructure to build the world's largest, fastest free municipal Wi-Fi network. The new franchise was approved in December 2014 and will begin being instituted this fall. LINK NYC is sending locations to Community Boards and other entities for the 7,000 PPTs remaining in the city for feedback into which ones should first be implemented under the system. The 7,000 phones are all that is left from the previous 40,000 across the city. The phones that are in use are used mainly by tourists or people whose cell phones have died. PPTs are a source of problems for community residents and businesses who want the phones removed because they breed garbage and debris and other nuisance problems. DOITT did extensive outreach to figure out what to replace the PPTs with and there was a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued for ideas. LINK NYC was awarded the contract based on a number of criteria. The new structures replacing old pay phones will not look like traditional pay phones as there will be no booth or panel. The new structure will also provide free phone calls nationwide and internet service with free calls to 311 and 911.

One of the great things about this initiative is that the digital access divide is being addressed. The City is working on Wi-Fi programs in parks, community gardens, and within NYCHA housing developments. LINK NYC is another one of these programs. LINK will provide a gigabit of speed, which is a much faster download and upload speed than cable and telephone service. He stated that LINK and the city are hoping that local businesses will utilize these structures for job training and economic opportunities.

One of the challenges is choosing where the locations for LINK NYC should be. City Bridge is seeking feedback on where the new structures should go, as they should start being installed this fall. The project is funded entirely by LINK through advertising, including digital advertising. The plan would be for the company to use the existing structure of PPTs to cut down on costs. The company is looking forward to feedback on economic feasibility over the years. Long term goals are to have all the PPTs replaced within 4 years. The majority of the new structures will be in Manhattan because it is the borough that has the most opportunity in terms of PPTs and the most advertising opportunities. The plan is to increase from 7,000 structures to 10,000 structures by the completion of the project.

After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Fergus for the information and asked for an update on Utica Avenue Select Bus Service.

Utica Avenue Select Bus Service – Mr. Kyle Gephardt, New York City Transit

Mr. Gephardt provided an update on where NYC Transit is with the implementation of upgrading the B46 limited to Select Bus Service (SBS) while still maintaining local bus service. He stated that in 2009, NYC transit did a citywide study to find the best corridors for SBS. During the study, the riders identified the B46 bus as one of the two bus routes really in need of improvement as it provides crucial connections to A/C and 3/4 trains. The Transit Authority has been doing a lot of outreach on the project.

SBS is NYC's brand for bus rapid transit. SBS has been brought to 7 routes citywide so far. Great results have been seen with buses arriving 15-20% faster and there is also greater customer satisfaction.

SBS is a collection of features that make the route faster. Features include improved fare collection, dedicated bus lanes, transit signal priority to move the buses through red lights faster, passenger information, improved station amenities, and pedestrian safety improvements. Utica Avenue has been identified as a really dangerous corridor for pedestrians, and NYC Transit believes that the SBS will help to change that.

Another representative of NYC Transit stated that the idea of fare collection is to take the fare box off the bus to make it faster to get people on the bus with pre-paid collection. Fare inspectors will be in place to ensure everyone pays their fare. Utica Avenue is a prime candidate because dedicated bus lanes are already in place for a good portion of the route. SBS will end at DeKalb Avenue because the vast majority of riders are using the route from Kings Plaza to DeKalb Avenue.

Mr. Staton asked if there are any plans in place to accommodate the narrow streets from Eastern Parkway to Fulton Street. Mr. Gephardt stated that NYC Transit is not proposing bus lanes on that portion because the street is not wide enough. What the agency is doing is looking at extending bus lanes south of Church Avenue where the streets are a bit wider. NYC Transit and DOT did not want to take away valuable parking spaces from the community. DOT will finalize service plans for the route and send the plans to the Community Boards for review by Summer 2015.

Mr. Atkins asked if transfers from the B45 would allow them to connect to SBS. He was informed that they would be able to transfer. Mr. Thurton asked if Transit is looking to add delayed light service for pedestrian crossing at Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway. He continued by stating that it is a very dangerous segment. Mr. Gephardt explained that a signal timing project was done for the segment last year, but stated he would have to get back to the Board on the specifics for the pedestrian safety plan at a later date.

Ms. Albert reverted back to the transfer at Eastern Parkway from the B45. She asked specifically how to transfer between the buses. She was told that the transfer would work the same way as with any other transfer. However, she was informed that it is indeed easier to pay with an unlimited metrocard, but all you have to do is ask for a transfer if you pay with coins and show the transfer to the SBS driver. Anytime you use the kiosk, you will get a paper ticket to show the inspector. The payment and transfer system works the exact same way as with a regular fare box except this fare box is on the street, not on the bus.

Mr. Harris asked what type of outreach was done to the community about the operation of SBS. Specifically, he asked what is being done to communicate to youth that it is not a free ride so they do not get ticketed for riding without a fare. He was informed that there have been several community

outreach meetings and that NYC Transit is willing to work with community groups to spread the word. There is also a grace period during the adjustment period. It is not something that will just be implemented. There is extensive outreach being done, much like with the Nostrand Avenue B44 SBS route.

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

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee did not meet for the month of March due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). All are invited to attend.

Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Education Committee met on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were: Sharon Wedderburn, Patricia Scantlebury, Xeerxeema Jordan, Phil Hawkins, Adem Bunkeddeko, and Kwasi Mensah, Michael Cox, Betty Davis, Alli Lesovoy, Rhea Smith, Beverly Newsome, Zulika Bumpus, Claudette Agard, William R. Howard, Fred Baptiste and Ada Terry.

The education committee met jointly with the education committee of Community Board 9. They discussed collaborative actions they will be working toward within the neighboring districts. Some of these actions include Brooklyn Children’s Museum changes and the impact to nearby communities given the considerable amount of tax levy dollars expended (and to be expended) for the museum’s benefit, developing a Five Point Plan for Schools addressing what we need to do in order to have our students be competitive in the 21st century. They discussed inviting a representative from the CUNY Start program to a community board general meeting for updates and information. CUNY Start accepts students who have been admitted because they have a high school diploma or GED but are not college ready based upon their assessment tests. There is currently a full time program at Medgar Evers College. The program provides intensive preparation in reading, writing, math and “college success.”

Additionally, the committee discussed the Community School located at Ebbets Field middle school. They were informed that their social service provider is “The Door” and that early community outreach was ineffectual as demonstrated by the absence of awareness about school kickoff between the school across the street from the Ebbets Field Apartments and its tenant association. The committee is aiming for another joint meeting with Community Board 9 to take place next month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The location is still being determined. All are invited to attend.

Environment/Sanitation – Ms. Helen Coley, Chair

The Environment/Sanitation committee met on Tuesday March 17, 2015 at the Community Board 8 Office. Present were Helen Coley, Julia Neale, Greg Todd, and Julia Boyd.

The committee discussed a few outstanding complaints regarding sanitation issues and the upcoming forum. Greg Todd will present on waste management. They also discussed the city councils plan to charge 10 cents for plastic bags in supermarkets. Mr. Todd explained that there is no market for recycled plastic bags and that is one of the reasons why the legislation is so important.

They also discussed the Marine Transfer Station where they transfer garbage on trucks to barges and then finally to trains because trains are more efficient but the only railhead is in the Bronx. Organic material collection is expected to be expanded but there is no date of implementation. There are experiments with bio-digest at Newtown Creek but this process creates a biogas that has to be cleaned before it is sold to National Grid.

Lastly, the committee discussed dangers of relying on private garbage carting companies citing non-unionized workers, long hours, and inefficient collection processes.

The next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation committee will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at the Community Board 8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues) at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services –Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair; Dr. Flize Bryan, Vice Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, April 6, 2015. In addition to the Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were Shalawn Langhorne and Zulika Bumpus.

Representatives Mark Paige from the New York Blood Center (NYBC) and Steven Gomar from Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) made a presentation on how attitudes toward homosexuality, particularly amongst the black community either exacerbate or contribute to the incidents of HIV/AIDS. They shared their own experiences they had speaking to members of black communities in efforts to have them see the correlation between their thoughts or action and the disease.

Mr. Paige spoke briefly about his organization called CHHANGE (Challenge HIV stigma & Homophobia and Gain Empowerment) and their movement to change HIV stigma and homophobia. One of the main points made was that HIV, as opposed to other ailments which could be associated with certain cancers, is much more severe. Those infected with HIV may feel too ashamed to seek the emotional and medical support they so badly need which creates another layer of burden on a community which is already enduring racism and sexism.

All sexually active people should be tested because there have been 190 new cases of HIV reported in the Crown Heights community. Perhaps a more effective approach to getting people tested would be to make it a requirement for all residents of a community to get general physicals which include HIV testing. They considered the traditional, biblically-based position of the black church a major impediment to a more open and loving discourse. Ms. Langhorne provided some names of churches that either had an AIDS-ministry or might be open to hearing their message.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were: Nizjoni Granville, Akosua Albritton, Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Adelaide Miller, Danae Oratowski, Stacey Sheffey, Margie Smith, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Deborah Young, and Vilma Zuniga. The committee discussed the following:

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Gib Veconi on the findings of the M1-1 Zone Subcommittee which includes a proposal / resolution to request that the Dept of City Planning begin the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) for a rezoning that will permit residential uses above light manufacturing and commercial uses, as well as facilitate the transfer of air rights to increase opportunities to develop smaller lots. The presentation detailed the number of affordable housing units that could conceivably be created in the M1 zone and the types of uses for the small area.

The proposal simply suggests rezoning the current M1-1 district to increase available density for commercial/manufacturing uses mixed with residential, use market rate residential development to cross-subsidize affordable housing and manufacturing, set affordability levels based on median income for community district b8, and tailor allowable manufacturing uses in the new zone to maximize potential for living wage jobs.

The M1-1 zone currently contains 24 lots 10,000 square feet or greater with built FAR of 2.5 or less. Rezoning to R7D density of 5.6 FAR would allow for 845,000 square feet of commercial manufacturing space, approximately 1,220 market rate apartments, and approximately 300 affordable apartments.

The permit uses are currently allowed in the M1 zones with the exceptions that retail ad services are permitted only on Atlantic Avenue, Grand Avenue, and Classon Avenue, as well as lots within 100 feet of those streets located on Pacific Street, Dean Street and Bergen Street, hotel infrastructure is not permitted in the new zone, and nightclub and entertainment uses require a special permit from the city planning commission with input from Community Board 8.

Equity for all property owners will allow for the transfer of available FAR above 1.5 between properties in the new zone, subject to height and setback requirements.

After hearing the presentation, the committee voted 16 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the attached draft resolution.

Ms. Oton asked if developers will be able to buy the air rights from small property owners on Bergen street. Ms. Tyus stated that we are in the process of asking the Department of City Planning to change their current rules so that the air of rights can be transferred to another owner in the zone. She also added that she is requesting that the Department of City Planning study this proposal and tailor it to meet our needs with their rules/guidelines.

Mr. Harris encourages the board not to adopt this proposal because the affordable units will eventually disappear. Ms. Tyus clarified by stating that as stated in the draft proposal the affordable housing units will be permanent and mandatory units and to not support the plan would mean that the land remains vacant lots. The fight we have been having is to have HUD (Housing & Urban Development) use the average median income for district 8 to determine what is affordable.

Mr. Veconi stated that the real decision that needs to be made is what will get developed and how instead of having someone else make those decisions.

Mr. Jerry Green who is a resident on Franklin Avenue asked how affordable housing is maintained and sustained, how is the average median income measured and lastly, how will folks who moved in at a

prior average median income level be affected when the rates begin to increase? Ms. Tyus responded that she will propose that legislators set up a look back period that works for this community district.

Zulika Bumpus asked if there is any way to increase affordable housing to higher than 20 percent. Ms. Tyus stated that our community representatives will always be fighting to increase affordable housing units. The main goal is to attract private contractors and build with private money unless the government can incentivize to build.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the M1-1 Committee's proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and passed with a final tally of 32 in favor, 5 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The committee also discussed the following:

LPC application for 590 Bergen Street, for a proposed rear extension. At the request of the committee the representative for the project Architect John Ott was asked to provide an overview of the plans for the proposed rear extension. The plan is to rebuild an extension on the rear of the house. It was explained that a rear extension previously existed but was torn down due to safety issues. It was also explained that the proposed 10 foot extension was shorter than other extensions on the block, noting that others extended 13feet. While the committee did not have problems with the proposed plan the concerns centered on the fact that the presenter was not able to provide information about specific materials and related design information. Also the owner, Daniel Stedman had no verification that his project plans had been discussed with neighbors. Mr. Ott and Mr. Steadman will be meeting with staff at LPC to determine the actual materials that will be used. Noting that a scheduled LPC hearing date had not been set, a motion was made to table the discussion and that once the aforementioned issues were resolved the project can be represented to the committee.

421-A Partial Real Estate Tax exemption for 670 Pacific Street

The committee discussed the circumstances surrounding granting of real estate tax exemptions. (No one showed up to make a presentation or to answer questions.) A review of the owner's application for the proposed rental building indicated that the 421-a written agreement had been executed June 1, 2007, making the site part of an exclusionary area. The provision that would have made it necessary to have an affordable housing component on the same site as the market-rate housing did not become law until July 2008. In other words, 670 Pacific will be a new 8-story building with a total of 86 residential dwelling units, that will not contain a single affordable apartment. The Committee was not happy about the fact that the developer will reap a substantial tax exemption at taxpayer expense, without having to provide a single affordable apartment in CB8, an area where many residents earn less than 60% of the federal AMI. Unless the process is revised, any developer who applies for a 421-a Partial Tax Exemption will get one from HPD, as long as their paperwork is in order. It was recommended that a letter be sent to HPD and our elected officials voicing our concerns and the fact that the program needs to be changed to facilitate the construction of affordable housing within CB8.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:30 PM at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). All are invited to attend.

Parks & Recreation– Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at St. John's Recreation at 6PM. The committee discussed some new innovative ideas that were mentioned for Stroud Playground at a March 25, 2015

meeting held by Friends of Stroud Park. The committee also discussed the special meeting held by the Commissioner Silver on March 26, 2015 regarding his new initiative to upgrade parks throughout the city.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 6 PM at the St. John's Recreation Center, which is located at 1251 Prospect Place (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues). All are invited to attend.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, March 16, 2015 at the 77th Precinct but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue (corner of Bergen Street). All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Seniors committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. Instructors from 720 Wisdom Jujitsu Technical Academy educated residents about techniques through the arts of Jujitsu and Tai Chi they can use to protect and defend themselves in threatening situations.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

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

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, April 6, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Renewals:

- Lotus 45 [Born Thai], 293 Flatbush Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) – Full liquor license (no complaints)
- Best Deli Café and Restaurant, 986 Atlantic Avenue (corner Grand) – Beer only (no complaints)
- Half Court Sports Bar, 446 Park Place (corner Washington) – Full liquor license (no complaints)
- Colola, 791 Washington Avenue (Lincoln/St. John's) – Full liquor license (no complaints)

The committee voted to support all 4 renewal applications in hopes that the full board to support its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

2. Renewals—Denials pending appearance by proprietors

- Piquant, 259 Flatbush Avenue (Bergen/St. Marks) – Full liquor license (**garden/ground indicated—complaint regarding noise in backyard**)
- No Bar, 608 Nostrand Avenue (Pacific/Atlantic) – Full liquor license (no complaints)

The committee voted to deny both applications until the proprietors appear before the Board. For Piquant, the application was further denied until the proprietors addressed the noise complaints emanating from the rear yard. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to send a denial letter to the SLA for the two applications.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthews and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

3. New Licenses

A. Bop Sot, 556 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner Dean) – Beer & Wine License

- Asset transfer from Le Gamin with a down grade to a beer and wine from a full license.
- cuisine will be Korean
- 17 tables with 38 seats
- Hours of operation from 8 AM to midnight Sunday thru Thursday and 8 AM to 1 AM Friday and Saturday
- Backyard space available and will be used with a capacity of 24 patrons
- Committee supports backyard usage with the stipulation that it closes at 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday with no amplified sound

The committee voted to support the application with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions to support the application with the backyard consideration of hours and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

B. Nacho Macho Taco, 417 Prospect Pl (corner of Grand) – Full Liquor License

- Taking over space formerly occupied by The Spot
- 11 AM to 11 PM Sun-Thurs, 11 AM to 12 AM Fri-Sat
- No outdoor space
- Will hire locally
- Authentic Puebla Mexican, family-run business

The committee voted to support the application with 18 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

C. Domo Taco, 733 Franklin Ave (Park/Sterling) – Beer & Wine License

- Taking over space formerly occupied by Cool Pony

- No outdoor space and will hire locally
- Korean-Mexican Fusion
- 4 tables with 18
- Hours of operation are Sunday thru Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 AM and Thursday thru Saturday from 11 AM to 3 AM

The committee voted with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions to support the application with the stipulated hours and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

D. Bunsmith, 789 Franklin Ave (St. Johns/Lincoln) – Full Liquor License

- Taking over space formerly occupied by Docklands
- No outdoor space
- Will hire locally or retain Docklands staff
- Korean cuisine
- 10 tables with 40 seats
- Hours of operation Sunday thru Thursday from Noon to 1 AM and Friday and Saturday from Noon to 2 AM—stipulated item

The committee voted with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention to support the application and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

4. Alteration Applications:

A. St. Catherine, 660 Washington (corner Bergen) – Full Liquor License

- Seeking extension of hours: from 2 AM Sun-Thu, 3 Am Fri-Sat to 4 AM Sun-Sat
- Hours will not apply to outdoor space
- Letters of support for extension and proof of notice from local neighbors

The committee voted with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions to support the alteration application and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

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

B. Guero's, 605 Prospect Place (corner of Franklin) – Full Liquor License

- Seeking change in hours, from 4 PM – 11 PM to 11 AM – 2 AM to enable proprietor to provide lunch for neighborhood and a second shift of staff
- The hours will **not** apply to sidewalk café as the sidewalk café service will continue to end Sunday thru Thursday at 10 PM and Friday and Saturday at 11 PM

The committee voted with 18 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions to support the alteration application and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

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

The next SLAC committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

Transportation Committee - Dr. Fred Monderson, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were Holly Fuchs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Chris McNally, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Elizabeth Haines, Wendi Royster, Desmond Atkins, Lisa Hembre, Constance Lesold, Phyllis Grannum, Tom Boast, Jason Atkins, and Jacqueline Wells.

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Nick Carey of NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) on traffic calming measures for Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. DOT compared current traffic activity on the streets versus its recommended improvements. Regarding Brooklyn Avenue, DOT's plan would implement better traffic signal synchronization and convert the avenue to one traffic lane, a bike lane, and two parking lanes with two traffic lanes from St. John's Place to Eastern Parkway. Regarding Kingston Avenue, DOT's plan would implement better traffic signal synchronization, make the avenue from Atlantic Avenue to St. John's Place one lane. There would also be an added bike lane and the maintenance of the two existing parking lanes.

The committee voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support both traffic calming measures with the proviso that the 77th Precinct better enforce speed regulations on the strips. The committee hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked if there is going to be a zone created to allow school buses to load and unload on Brooklyn Avenue. Mr. Perry responded that as part of the proposal, there are no plans to change the parking regulations at this time.

Ms. Albert asked if there are plans to put traffic lights at Kingston and Sterling because senior citizens complain that it is difficult for them to cross that particular street. Mr. Perry stated that a study can be initiated for a traffic signal if the board petitions for it.

A resident asked if DOT is planning on extending this project to the south side of Eastern Parkway. Mr. Perry responded that they are making arrangements to meet with Community Board 9 in efforts to make some traffic calming improvements along Kingston Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to support both traffic calming measures with the proviso that the 77th Precinct enforce speed regulations on the strips. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mensah and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places).

Youth and Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth & Family Services committee met on Monday, March 9, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Akosua Albritton, present were Gwendolyn Crouch, Zulika Bumpus, and Leroy Reid.

The committee discussed the fact sheet on K2, Bath Salts and where it would be most effective to dispense the information. Some of these suggestions included houses of worship, Narcotics Anonymous meeting places, Tenant/Block Associations within apartment buildings, at block parties, and to school guidance counselors and psychologists. This distribution plan will act as a service learning project for young adults. They also discussed the Brooklyn Borough President's initiative to have youth between the ages of 16 & 17 become active members of Brooklyn's 18 community boards. Lastly the committee discussed ideas and suggestions for the upcoming K2 event which would consist of workshops and group discussions. Some suggestions for future committee events were also made.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

Executive Committee (on behalf of the Youth & Family Services Committee) – Ms. Akosua Albritton

The Executive committee brings forth a motion to support Senator Velmanette Montgomery and other public officials to support the New York State Assembly's "Raise the Age Legislation" modifications to the Governor's Executive Plan. The "Raise the Age Legislation" (RAL) rejects Governor Cuomo's proposal on age restrictions and charges that would lead to youth offenders being charged as adults. Reasons put forth to oppose the Governor's plans are that his plan would expand the list from 18 to over 60 criminal charges committed by juveniles that would be prosecuted in adult courts; increases the penalties for charges of harassment and disorderly conduct; creates a predicate offense by allowing youthful offenders' records to be unsealed; and impedes defense counsel's ability to move cases from Criminal Court to Family Court for 14, 15, 16, and 17 year olds. RAL also is seeking to slow down the legislative action on the Governor's plan, citing the complex nature of the legislation that indicates that it should not be rushed through during the budget process. The goal of RAL is to protect juveniles that make mistakes from too harsh criminal sanctions.

The Assembly's modified version of the Governor's proposal reflects a more fair and age appropriate process. The modified version does not allow for a youthful offender adjudication to be used as a sentencing enhancement tool for future offenses; directs that juvenile offender cases involving 13, 14, and 15 year olds start in Family court, with the possibility of removal to adult courts. It places the burden on prosecutors to prove that it is in the best interest of justice to remove the case. The modifications also grants judges greater discretion in transferring cases from adult court to Family

Court; does not increase prison sentences for juvenile offenders; mandates adjustment for all misdemeanors and non-violent felonies, not limited to just “low-risk” youth.

If the modifications to the Governor’s proposal as presented to the Assembly are not adopted, the Assembly proposes that resources should be immediately allocated to transfer 16 and 17 year olds out of state prison facilities and transitioned into more appropriate secure placement facilities; deliberations should continue in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for raising the age of criminal responsibility; and expansion of community-based alternative-to-incarceration, community courts and diversion programs for youth in urban areas across the state.

The Executive committee hopes the full Board supports the recommendation to support Senator Montgomery in backing the Assembly’s modified proposal.

Mr. Staton asked why removal is not up to the judge. Judge Gerstein stated that New York State is one of only 2 states where the age of responsibility is 16 rather than 18. In certain cases, a person can be considered responsible at 14. The bill would raise the age of responsibility to 18, joining all other 48 states except North Carolina. If a Family Court judge has to decide that there is a good reason to move a case from family court to Criminal Court or Supreme Court, that is better than having a blanket rule. This is all pending action by the legislation, since every court in the state has established a segment to hear cases for 16 and 17 year olds.

Mr. Mensah asked if it was correct to assume that a 16 or 17 year old that commits murder would still be heard in Family Court rather than Criminal Court. He was told that the case would start in Family Court and the prosecutor would make an appeal to have the case moved to Criminal Court.

Mr. Atkins stated that sociologists have proven that young people’s minds do not mature at the same rate as an adult. This has the potential to go a long way in ending the prison industrial complex. Ms. Albritton stated that this is why the Close to Home Program is so important as an alternative to prison.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The nominating committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 to discuss the upcoming election of Community Board 8 officers. In addition to Kim Albert, present at the meeting were Robert Matthews, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Stacey Sheffey and Wayne Bailey (via conference call). The committee reviewed and discussed the attendance records of all members at general meetings and committee meetings in an effort to come up with the best slate of potential candidates for officers.

The committee unanimously voted in favor of the following slate:

Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, 1st Vice Chair

Mr. Robert Witherwax, 2nd Vice Chair

Mr. Kwasi Mensah will run against Ms. Atim Oton for 3rd Vice Chair

Ms. Ethel Tyus, Treasurer

Mr. Desmond Atkins will run against Ms. Akosua Albritton for Secretary

Mr. James Ellis, Sergeant at Arms

Ms. Granville opened the floor for additional nominations. Ms. Oton nominated Ms. Banks for Secretary and Ms. Wedderburn nominated Ms. Coley, also for Secretary. Both women accepted the nomination.

All candidates in run-off scenarios will have the opportunity to campaign to their fellow members. The election will be conducted via signed paper ballot at the May 14, 2015 general meeting.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and asked Councilwoman Cumbo to say a few words.

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo

Councilwoman Cumbo stated that the City Council is in the throes of the budget process. She stated that she and her colleagues are fighting hard to bring resources back to the community. In addition, the Council has a new rule that people that apply for discretionary funding must apply for a minimum of \$5,000. Everyone is trying to figure out how to fund the people that applied for less than \$5,000.

She is still working on Article 11 for the old Brooklyn Jewish Hospital housing site. She thanked everyone that came out to the rally to save the Forte Greene Senior Center. As a result of the support an agreement was obtained to keep the center open.

Councilwoman Cumbo stated that she is introducing 3 pieces of legislation. She is putting forth a resolution to make April National Jazz Heritage month to celebrate the many jazz legends that came from Brooklyn. The second is legislation to ensure that the community boards and elected officials have to be notified and contacted anytime a permit is requested for as of right large scale development opportunities when it is private property. The community is going to need support to battle the fight with real estate moguls.

As for the third resolution, it has to do with housing lotteries. If the resolution is passed, in many of the lotteries, if you are displaced as a result of gentrification and if you can prove that you lived in the community, you will be able to participate in the lottery as well. Under current laws, you are not eligible for the lottery preference.

Finally, the Councilwoman informed everyone that Summer Youth Employment Program and Universal Pre-K applications are now being accepted.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilwoman Cumbo for the information and opened the floor to elected official representatives and public comments.

Senator Jesse Hamilton's Office – Mr. Raul Rothblatt

Mr. Rothblatt announced that the Senator's office is having an education forum on Wednesday, April 15th from 7 to 9 PM. Call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700 for more information and for the location.

Public Advocate Letitia James' Office – Mr. Brian McLaurin

Mr. McLaurin announced that the Public Advocate is still working to have the Eric Garner case records unsealed for public review. He also mentioned that 3 landlords that were on the chronic bad landlord list have begun to make repairs to their buildings. The Public Advocate also attended the rally to keep the Fort Greene Senior Center open as a show of support for the city's seniors. If further information is needed, please call him at 646-300-0988.

Assemblyman Walter Mosley's office – Mr. Joseph Yanis

Mr. Yanis announced that the state budget was passed last week. There was an increase in education funding by \$1.2 billion. A full breakdown of the budget and how the education monies will be dispensed is available on the Assemblyman's website. You can obtain more information by calling the Assemblyman's office, or if you have a constituent complaint, call 718-596-0100.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's office – Ms. Nora Daniels

Ms. Daniels announced that the Councilwoman is the Chairperson of the Civil Rights Committee. She also announced that Intro. 421 was passed, which requires reporting on issues that are being investigated. She directed everyone's attention to the Councilwoman's newsletter with news from her office and a list of upcoming events. For more information, call 718-953-3097.

Senator Velmanette Montgomery's office – Mr. Jim Vogel

Mr. Vogel distributed an information package that discusses some of the things that happened with the state budget. In a critique of the budget, he stated that it is terrible that we cannot raise the minimum wage, but we instead give large tax breaks to people that do not need tax breaks. Also, he questioned the \$400 million given to Nassau County for exploratory planning, stating that it is unclear what the money is going to be used for. His critique came as he stated that funding was cut in some service areas where the money could have been better spent. For more information, call the Senator's office at 718-643-6140.

Borough President's Office – Ms. Kathleen Daniel

Ms. Daniel encouraged everyone to make sure they obtain a copy of the Borough President's newsletter. She announced that the Borough President's office is celebrating Earth Week from April 20th thru 24th. From 8 AM to 7 PM, you can bring small electronics and technical products for recycling. She urged people to not bring bulky items that are difficult to carry for a swap meet that will occur at Borough Hall as well. During the swap meet, things do not have to be exchanged; they can be left to be taken. There will also be a shred fest at Borough Hall.

The Borough President is hosting a formal wear drive to help underprivileged youth attend their prom. She encouraged people to drop off their formal wear to Boro Hall. She also thanked CB 8 for their great show of support during events. CB 8 was well represented at the 50th Anniversary celebratory march across the Brooklyn Bridge in honor of the march on Selma.

In response to recent fires in the community and the news, Ms. Daniel announced a new website, Firesonar.com, that allows people to sign up for free and input the telephone number of family, friends, and neighbors to alert them if their smoke alarm goes off. Everyone in your network will be notified so

that help will be on the way immediately. It is free software. For more information, please call her at 718-802-3771.

Congresswoman Clarke's office – Mr. Charles Jackson

Mr. Jackson announced that the Congresswoman is offering free tax preparations for those making \$30k or less or families making \$70k or less. Tax prep sessions are available at Flatbush Public Library Friday and Saturday from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM and the Flatbush YMCA on Sundays from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

It is still not too late to sign up for healthcare if you missed the open enrollment deadline. Please call 855-355-5777 to sign up.

Dept. of Consumer Affairs – Ms. Esther Louis, Regional Field Director

Ms. Louis announced that the Dept. of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment offers free financial management services at over 30 locations citywide. Interested parties can set up an appointment to meet one on one with a credit counselor. DCA operates tax centers where people making less than \$60k can get their taxes done for free. April 1st marks the 1 year anniversary of the Paid Sick Leave Act. Larger companies are now beginning to comply with the legislation. However, if you have an issue with your employer, please contact DCA to file a complaint. For more information, please call her at 212-436-0390.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for the announcements and information and adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places), Brooklyn, NY. All are encouraged to attend.

Guests

Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Albert Appleton
Luiz Meza
Derek Washington
David Moon
Chiman Chang
Brad Nicoll
Chang He Lin
Adam Sachs
Leroy Reid
Shirley Mondesir
Paul Wiggins
Clarence Norman Jr.

Marco Cardenas
Thomas Yang
Naceo Giles
Mark Thurton
Alex Plutton
Alex Powell
Zulika Bumpus
William Howard
Patrick Fergus
Jarrid Green
Ronda Messer
Michele Boulais
Hannah Johnson

Sonia Athgly
Lillian Forte
Isela Ionne
Jacqueline Europe
Paul Blanchetta
Priscilla Mesah
Francisco Cardenas
Ken Marable
Jacqueline Welch
Esther Louis
Dweynie Paul
Rev. T. Robinson