Community Board No. 8
Brooklyn Children Museum
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213

October 9, 2014

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Adem Bunkedeko
Helen Coley
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Philip Hawkins
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Robert Puca
Mary Reed
Patricia Scantlebury
Stacey Sheffey
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Greg Yerman
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

LeeAnn Banks
Dian Duke
Phu Duong
Curtis Harris
Jamell Henderson
Atim Oton
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Sheryl Vassell
Yves Vilus
Rohon Williams

Elected Officials

Senator Velmanette Montgomery, 25th Dist.
Assemblyman Karim Camara, 43rd Dist.
Senator Jesse Hamilton, 20th Dist.
Judge Michael Gerstein, Criminal Court
Geoffrey Davis, District Leader 43rd A.D.

Elected Official Representatives

Akhurapa Ambak, Councilman Robert Cornegy
Octavia Brown, Assemblyman Karim Camara
Ashley Torres, Senator Jesse Hamilton
Stefan Ringel, Borough President Adams
Brian McLaurin, Public Advocate Tish James
Karen Crawford, KCDA’s Office
J. Markowitz, Assemblywoman Annette Robinson
Kristia, Beaubrun, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

CB8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant
The Public Hearing on the Capital and Expense Budget for 2016 was called to order by Ms. Granville, Chairperson at 7 PM. Ms. Granville asked for a welcome from the Brooklyn Children’s Museum.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN’S MUSEUM** – Ms. Margaret Walton, Director of Government and External Affairs

Ms. Walton welcomed everyone to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum and distributed the fall calendar of events. She announced that the museum would be open for the Columbus Day holiday, and that this coming Sunday, October 12, 2014, there will be a special event called “I Can” Ability Day, which is specifically for children with special needs. For additional information on the events at the museum, please visit [www.brooklynkids.org](http://www.brooklynkids.org).

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Walton for the welcome address and opened the Public Hearing on the Capital and Expense Budget Items for FY 2016.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS FY 2016**

Ms. Granville asked Mr. Witherwax, Ms. Tyus, and Mr. Ellis to read each item. She asked everyone to wait until all requests had been read before submitting additional requests. Ms. George, District Manager, cautioned that not everything that is requested can be added to the budget because there are only 25 requests allowed for Capital and 40 allowed for Expense. Requests that do not make it to the budget may be included in our District Needs Statement. She also cautioned that some items submitted are not budget items but rather are complaints that can be handled by a particular city agency.

There were no additional requests or changes made to the submissions. For the full list of budget items, please contact the Community Board office.

Dr. Monderson made a motion to accept the budget requests. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Witherwax, Mr. Ellis, and Ms. Tyus for reading the budget items. She then called the general meeting of Community Board No. 8 to order at 7:30 PM.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with any necessary corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for a report from the following committees:

**AGING** – Ms. Kim Albert, Chairperson

The Aging Committee will meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms. Oton, present were: Gwendolyn Crouch, Celeste
Farmer, Duane Frankson, Noah Potter, LeeAnn Banks, Michael Williams, and Andan Eddy. The committee discussed the upcoming Shop Local Program with Community Boards 8 & 9. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**EDUCATION** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn and Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chairs

The Education Committee met on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2014 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Please note that the meeting is not being held on its regularly scheduled date because of two consecutive holiday Tuesdays.

**ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION** – Ms. Helen Coley, Chairperson

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Coley, present were: David Christini, Rohon Williams, Elisabeth Martin and Michelle George, District Manager. The committee discussed reduction of Alternate Side Parking, an upcoming Public Hearing Forum, and the proposed 19-story residential building at 535 Carlton Avenue (Block 1129), Pacific Park (formerly known as Atlantic Yards). The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Executive Committee of Community Board No. 8 respectfully requests the Board’s support of “Nicholas’ Law: Child Access Prevention or Safe Weapon Storage Act.” Nicholas’ Law requires the safe storage of all guns not in the immediate possession or control of the gun owner, either in a safe storage depository or with a locking device, to prevent access by children and others who should not have access to them. Gun owners who fail to comply will be subject to criminal liability ranging from a violation to a class E felony. Please see the attached resolution from Borough President Eric L. Adams and a more detailed explanation of Nicholas’ Law for clarification.

Mr. Mensah asked if the law was already in the books, or if it is based on the Borough President and City Council. Ms. Granville stated that at this point, it is something that will go from the city to the state, and our support is the first step in the process. She informed him and the Board that she first found out about Nicholas’ Law at the last Boro Board meeting, and as a Community Board, we need to vote to give support for the law.

Dr. Monderston made a motion to support Nicholas’ Law. It was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson & Dr. Flize Bryan, Co-Chair

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Monday, October 6, 2014. The committee discussed Alzheimer’s disease. Invited guest Sharon McLeod of the NY Memory Center gave committee members pertinent information about Alzheimer’s disease. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3,
2014 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**HOUSING/ULURP** – Ms. Nizioni Granville, Chairperson; Ms. Ethel Tyus, Co-Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair and Co-Chair, ms. Granville and Ms. Tyus, present were: Mary Aikens Reed, Adelaide Miller, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Akosua Albritton, Wayne Bailey, Princess Benn-James, Diana Foster, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Xeerxeema Jordan, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Margie Smith, Meredith Staton, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Vilma Zuniga, and an abundance of guests.

The committee discussed the following:

1. **203 Prospect Place (Prospect Heights Historic District) Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness**

Matthew Kaplan Architect, as agent for owners Miranda Chen and Dean Mekkawy, presented a plan to:

- Widen the entry steps below the front stoop to allow for safer egress;
- Demolish the existing ground floor rear extension and replace it with one that will be larger by 18’ with 3’nub wall for privacy; and
- Add a 6’ by 8’9” extension to the 2d floor to provide a 4th bedroom while allowing for a separate rental apartment on the ground floor. This 2d floor addition would not include a deck. A/C units would be placed on the roof of the 2d floor extension.

Built circa 1885, the building is one of four Neo-Grec townhouses with 3-stories and a basement designed by Architects Eastman & Daus; and built by Builders: Kelly & Schepper. Daniel Kaplan indicated that the project includes a reflecting pool to ameliorate the reduction of sunlight to the neighbors. Several neighbors attended to voice their concerns regarding the plan’s encroachment into their light and air, as well as into the shared greenspace represented by the block’s ‘donut hole,’ as well as what some believe to be a mis-categorization of sheds as existing extensions. PHNDC representative Veconi said that longer 1-story extensions had previously been approved by LPC; and that of the 41 buildings on the same side of the block, 22 had extensions.

The Committee voted not to support the application with 9 in favor of withholding support, 4 in favor of support, and 4 abstentions including 2 PHNDC representatives. The Committee hopes the full Board will follow its recommendation. The Application is scheduled to be heard by LPC on 10/28/14.

In response to the action item, Ms. Kathy Schapiro, a resident two doors down from proposed construction, speaking on behalf of concerned residents of the block, read an extensive written response to the proposal. She stated that she and fellow residents needed to express their concern and opposition to project, and submitted a letter with 12 signatures based on the reduced light and air for the block’s donut hole. Preserving open, green space is an integral part of the historic beauty of the area. Most of the other extensions appear to be extensions of kitchens and long standing extensions, not current. One of the unique features of the properties is the depth of the yards, which should be preserved. She reminded the Board that it previously denied another application seeking a similar extension because of its impact on
the donut hole. The extension could serve as a perverse precedent to other extensions. Extensions for proposals should be more highly scrutinized.

Ms. Kathryn Appleby, a resident of 201 Prospect, stated that the architect claims that more than half the buildings have extensions to qualify his work as within the norm of work to validate his work with LPC. The majority of the extensions they spoke of, however, are not extensions; they are foundationless sheds that do not qualify as extensions by LPC.

In response to the negative statements against the project, Mr. Dan Kaplan, architect, stated that the owners and architect tried hard in designing the extension to respect the sunlight and air of all the surrounding buildings. They did not seek the additional 25% extension that they could get in an effort to assuage the fear of reducing the donut hole. Virtually no light will be blocked by the 2nd story extension because there is no light coming in from the east.

Ms. Wedderburn made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to deny the application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foster and carried with a final tally of 34 in favor of denial, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

2. 535 Carlton Avenue, Pacific Park (formerly known as Atlantic Yards), Block 1129 – Preserving Green Space

The residents of Carlton Avenue attended to voice their concerns regarding the proposed 19-story residential building being planned for a narrow street. Their complaints are mainly that the building setback is not aligned with the other buildings on the block and does not provide for green space in front. Construction is scheduled to start 12/2014. Given the well-founded concerns of the neighbors, the Committee voted 17 in favor to invite representatives of both members of the Joint Venture Developer responsible for the project to present the design to the Housing Committee. The Committee hopes the full Board will follow its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi asked the Board to add 550 Vanderbilt Avenue to the letter as well. Mr. Witherwax questioned whether or not the item was really an action item. In an effort to reduce scrutiny, the Board elected to vote on the item.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to submit a letter on behalf of the Prospect Heights residents. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and carried with a final tally of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

In addition, the Housing Committee also discussed the following issues:

- **278-292 St. Marks Avenue between Vanderbilt and Underhill Avenues – Conversion to Residential:** The owner of has been invited to an upcoming Housing committee meeting to discuss his plans for the site which is now a 1-story parking garage for 112 cars. A developer has been contacting neighboring landowners seeking to purchase their air-rights.
- **1515 Bedford Avenue – Plan for 10-story mixed use building:** Lingering questions persist on the project, including affordability and tax exemptions. A letter will be sent to the owner and HPD for clarity and inviting both to attend a future Housing Committee meeting to further discuss their plans.
- **545 Prospect Place – Brooklyn Jewish Hospital:** Many tenants from 545 Prospect Pl attended a separate meeting in the cafeteria of CNR and Assemblyman Moseley participated in the discussion to of a recent announcement that the apartments are moving to market rate. It was recently discovered that the
apartments do not appear to be currently rent regulated, causing much concern over the potential loss of 700 units of rent stabilized and affordable housing.

- **M1-1 Zone Subcommittee:** The M1-1 Zone subcommittee is scheduled to meet 10/27/14 at 6:30 p.m. at CNR to continue exploratory discussions with City Planning and area stakeholders on creating a Special Zoning District to encourage mixed use light manufacturing and affordable residential development in the six block area bounded by Grand Ave., Atlantic Ave., Franklin Avenue, and Bergen St. (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142).

- The next Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) general membership meeting will be Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 6:45 PM at St Gregory’s Church, located at the corner of St Johns Place and Brooklyn Avenue. The 77th Precinct and Save Our Streets program representatives will discuss community safety.

The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places) in the Atrium. All are invited to attend.

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

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2014 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend. Please note that the meeting has moved from its regularly scheduled meeting day because of Election Day.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday September 15, 2014 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chairperson and Co-Chair, Ms. Langhorne and Mr. Atkins, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Judith Campbell, Kim Albert, Phil Hawkins, Charles Hickmon, Lorraine Clarke, P.O. Edwin Diaz, DI Eddie Lott, and Lt. Det. Adrian Ashby.

The committee discussed the Gun Violence Town Hall Meeting that took place June 30th, St. Mary’s Hospital Labor Fraud Case, The 78th Precinct has a new Commanding Officer: Captain Frank DiGiacomo and a new Community Council President: Wayne Bailey (In addition, the FDNY has a new commissioner: Daniel Nigro), a proposal for a Gun Buy Back Program which was submitted in June to Council Members Cornegy, Cumbo and Mealy, and the three reported fires in our district which took place on August 26, 2014 at 385 Flatbush Ave, August 29, 2014 at 1008 St. Marks Ave, and September 4, 2014 at 447 Kingsboro 4th Walk. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

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

The SLAC committee met on Monday, October 6, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were Wayne Bailey, Irsia Weatherspoon, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, Lynda Jones, Tarves Lord, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Gib Veconi, Robert Witherwax, Greg Yerman, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. **Castle Hill’s Bar & Grill LLC, 1421 St. John’s Place (corner Utica)**—Full Details:
--Transfer application for full license, formerly Anthony's Corner Café, which opened in 2008.
--20 tables with 40 seats, 2 floors to the space that has a full kitchen
--No significant changes to method of operations, and will seek two liquor licenses under one presentation to license both bars as required by the State Liquor Authority
--Hours of operation reduced from a 4 AM closing daily to 11 AM to 2 AM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 AM to 4 AM Friday and Saturday as per the committee’s request
--No bottle service at either bar and especially in the downstairs area where the committee had concerns over lack of supervision during private events. The downstairs bar has only 2 stools. The proprietor assured the committee that there would not be a “dance club” in the middle of a residential area.

The committee voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions to support the application with the stipulations that the hours be reduced to the agreed upon 2 AM closing Sunday through Thursday and also with no bottle service at either of the two bars. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mensah and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 5 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

2. **Drink, 768 Franklin Avenue (St. John’s/Lincoln)** – Full (outdoor space indicated)

Details:

-- 3 seats at separate bar space, 28 seats, 8 tables indoors with a loveseat at the front of the establishment. There could be 32 max seats with "aggressive" seating
--Backyard space with max capacity of 25, no amplified sound in outdoor space. Intentionally cutting off usable space in yard with the intention to keep people from congregating in the area
--Provided signatures of support from tenants and landlord in the building
--3 employees on any given night plus one security personnel
--Regarding the food plan, the proprietors posed two different approaches: Hors d'oeuvres and finger food, and tapas, with local artisans that can showcase their food. Do not want the same menu daily. Might support "pop up food vendors."
--Since 500 foot exception, the committee sought concessions on the closing hours, which were proposed at 3 AM daily. The hours agreed upon are 1 AM Sunday through Wednesday, with a 3 AM closing time for the lounge Thursday through Saturday. The backyard would close at 10 PM Sunday through Wednesday and 11 PM Thursday through Saturday

The committee voted 12 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application with the stipulations and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Dr. Monderson made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Boyd and carried with a final tally of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

3. **Boeuf & Bun, 271 Kingston Avenue (corner of Lincoln)**—Beer/Wine

Details:

--Hours of operation from noon to midnight daily, with possible closures on Friday and Saturday as part of a kosher establishment.
--Max occupancy is 38, all tables and booths, no bar. No outdoor space, recorded soft background music
--Will get letter of no objection after construction completed. Will provide when ready.
The committee voted unanimously to support the application and hopes that the full Board support its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 8 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

4. Dorsett (catering hall/event space), 677 Washington Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) – Full Details:

--no supporting documents were provided and the CB 8 form was improperly completed
--Proprietor failed to appear at SLAC meeting

The committee voted 10 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions to deny the application until a sufficient presentation has been made before the committee and all supporting documentation submitted. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

5. Renewals:

--Dean Street, 755 Dean Street (corner of Underhill)—Full
--The Classon, 807 Classon Avenue (corner of St. John’s)—Beer/Wine (Live music performances)

The committee voted unanimously to support the two renewal applications and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Foster and carried with a final tally of 34 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Additionally, Mr. Ellis announced that the SLAC committee, in conjunction with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a Night Life Forum on Monday, October 27, 2014 from 3 to 5 PM at Hope City Empowerment Center located at 650 Washington Avenue. Representatives from city agencies as well as the State Liquor Authority will be on hand to discuss their role in all licensing and complaint processes. Community residents and business owners—both current and potential—are encouraged to attend.

The next meeting of the SLAC committee will be Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

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

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. In addition to the Chairperson, Dr. Monderson, present were: Meredith Staton, Holly Fuchs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jacqueline Wells, Nizjoni Granville, Tatiana Ilienko-Chung, Celeste Farmer, Jason Atkins, and J. M. Atkins.

The committee discussed the Junius/Livonia Transfer Resuscitation, Lincoln/Schenectady Traffic Control Issues, Community MV Access-A-Ride, Franklin Avenue Issues, Improper signage in CB8 at St. Marks between Bedford and Franklin Avenues, Brooklyn, and Franklin Shuttle issues. The next meeting will be
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES – Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Monday, October 20, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and asked Assemblyman Camara to say a few words.

ASSEMBLYMAN KARIM CAMARA – 43rd Assembly District

Assemblyman Camara provided an update on Long Island College Hospital (LICH), which does have impact on SUNY Downstate. The State is moving forward with closing with a development company and Long Island University, which will detach the financial relationship with LICH and SUNY Downstate.

He introduced his new representative, Ms. Octavia Brown. He urged those with constituent complaints to call his office for assistance at 718-771-3105.

Ms. Granville thanked Assemblyman Camara for the update and asked for a report from Brooklyn Speaks.

BROOKLYN SPEAKS – Mr. Gib Veconi

Mr. Veconi thanked Ms. George and Ms. Granville for the invitation to make a presentation before the Board. He stated that Brooklyn Speaks has been very active for the last few years advocating for accountability around the Atlantic Yards Project (AYP). Brooklyn Speaks felt the urgency to meet before the Community Board because it has come to a major crossroads within the AYP. The initial project as set forth in the early 2000s, was supposed to deliver 2250 units of affordable housing by 2016. Unfortunately, when the final agreements were signed in 2009, the NYS Empire Development Corporation (ESDC), allowed the delay of AYP completion until 2035, 20 years after the expected completion date. The problem is that rent rates have increased dramatically in CB 8 in the last few years, which impacts the level of affordability for the rates that can be charged for the units to be created. He reminded everyone that priority for housing, with 50% of the units available, goes to residents of CBs 2, 3, 6, and 8. Over the 20 year build-out, demographics are expected to change rapidly over the 4 CBs, thus further increasing rent rates. Mr. Veconi pointed out that in 1990, all four of the aforementioned CBs were majority African American but are expected to be majority white by 2035. This means that the people that live in the neighborhoods now will not be living here when the units are constructed, and consequently, will not have access to the housing created.

Additionally, the HUD area median income has risen over 3 times the rate of Brooklyn’s median income since the announcement of the AYP. It is merely growing faster. The bigger the disparity means that the apartments being created will be less affordable and more expensive than needed to retain the adequate mixture of the community.
Mr. Calvin Lawmen, also of Brooklyn Speaks, stated that the analysis looked at the original 10 year plan and not the extended 20 year one. The longer period of time that passes, the smaller the African American population is within the affected area. The increased project time will have a disparate impact on African Americans if the units are allowed to be built by 2035. In its analysis, Brooklyn Speaks found that the 2009 agreements violated the Fair Housing Act. In response to this finding, the organization had prepared to file a lawsuit, but instead settled an offer to accelerate delivery of affordable housing to AYP. The terms of the settlement were 590 units made available by 2015 and all 2250 units by 2025. The promises were made with remedies if they are not met. There will be a $2000/month per apartment penalty if the units are not created on schedule.

Mr. Veconi stated that projects like AYP do increase gentrification and pressure on local communities. As a result, as part of settlement, Forest City Ratner (FCRC) agreed to contribute $250,000 for tenant protection fund services. The City agreed to review affordable housing lottery preferences and take into account local residents already displaced. The remedy fees, if any collected, will be used to pay for affordable housing in other areas.

He also stated that Brooklyn Speaks has been advocating for local representation and project oversight. As a function of the settlement, the State is going to develop an Atlantic Yards Community Development Corporation (AYCDC) composed of representatives appointed by the governor, mayor, city council, Borough President, Senate President, and Assembly Speaker. There will be 14 members total, with 9 appointees by the governor and one from each other office.

The one glaring omission is that the settlement did not address affordability levels.

In response to the Brooklyn Speaks presentation, Mr. Tracey Collin of the Dean Street Block Association read a letter highlighting Dean Street’s concerns. Mr. Collin thanked CB 8 for consistently paying attention to the needs of the area in direct contact with the project over the years. While Dean Street Block Association appreciates the work put into to the agreement, the settlement agreement does not address all the issues and only gives a timeline for completion. Furthermore, the oversight structure is only advisory. The state still has the final say and can agree with the committee or disagree with it. The governor still has 9 appointed seats; the developer has access to the governor but the community does not. These are all issues that need to be mitigated before any of us feel as though we have achieved a great victory.

Mr. Peter Krashes, a co-founder of Brooklyn Speaks, stated that Dean Street Block Association and Brooklyn Speaks have long advocated for oversight and a part in decision making. Lack of decision making ability or input constantly leads to problems. There is no oversight of the problem by the state agencies. He encouraged CB 8 to maintain scrutiny and skepticism to ensure that outreach that should be done will be done when it comes to matters that will affect the community.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Veconi for the very thorough presentation and thanked Mr. Collin and Mr. Krashes for their comments. She stated that CB 8 will continue doing its due diligence to assist the community overcome any obstacles resulting from the AYP. She asked Senator Montgomery if she had anything to share.

**Senator Velmanette Montgomery – 25th Senatorial District**

Senator Montgomery stated that DREAMS Youth Build helps young people get back on track and prepare them with job development skills and GED training and preparatory courses. The program is
focused primarily on skills with the building trade. She introduced a few DREAMS Youth Build graduates and asked them to say a few words on how the program has helped them.

Ms. Khadijah Roach expressed her gratitude to the program and how it has helped her enroll in college for the Spring 2015 semester. Overall, it has given her a better life and greater ability to be a positive influence for her daughter.

Mr. Edison Rodriguez stated that the age of 20, he has graduated the program and currently has gained employment in a carpentry job. He is excited by what awaits him in the future.

Mr. Maurice Good, Dean/Deputy Director of Students, thanked CB 8 and Senator Montgomery for all of the assistance they have provided with the program. CB 8 has helped with outreach for the program and recruitment. He announced that DREAMS is presently recruiting people ages 17 to 24 for various programs, including training and development, adult continuing education, and GED programs. DREAMS is located at 1615 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY.

Senator Montgomery stated that the federal government has cut back funding so there have been some program casualties. To make up for the lost federal funds, we need state funding. As such, she is asking for a state line in the budget to ensure that the DREAMS Youth Build program will still be available.

Senator-elect Jesse Hamilton of the 20th Senatorial District, commended the young people in the DREAMS program. Unfortunately, 80% of applicants do not get in to the program because they are not reading at a 7th grade reading level. He asked what could be done with the youth that have been left behind and are not up to standard for programs designed to help them like the DREAMS Youth Build program. He believes that more funding for youth services and programs is desperately needed. Mentors are also needed. There are kids that want to do something good and productive with their lives, but have few and limited options. Funding is needed to provide the options they are seeking.

Ms. Granville thanked Senator Montgomery, Senator-elect Hamilton, and the DREAMS Youth Build participants for their inspiring words. She then opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Katy Gracely of the Citizens Committee for NYC stated that Citizens Committee has grants up to $3000 for community projects. Groups can use the funds to finance improvements to parks and streetscapes and a variety of other projects. The application will be available shortly and the deadline to apply for a grant is January 26, 2015. An organization can apply for multiple grants as long as they are for different projects. For more information, visit www.citizensnyc.org.

Mr. Gerard Miller of Neighborhood Housing Services of Bed Stuy announced Bed Stuy Alive, a week-long celebration. There will be a kickoff event this Saturday from 10-5 in front of Restoration Plaza located at 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY. On October 18th at Medgar Evers College from 10 AM to 3 PM, there will be a Human Resources Fair. On November 8th from 10 AM to 3 PM at 1012 Gates Avenue, there will be a financial literacy class for students/youth in high school. For more information on any of these programs, call 718-919-2100 or 718-732-8032.

Mr. Roy Simmons of New Heights Bar and Grill announced that last year, his restaurant gave away back to school supplies to the community. This year, they are having a coat drive in conjunction with Bad Boys Motorcycle Club. The coats collected will be given to CB8 for distribution to an organization of its choice. He asked those interested in participating in the coat drive to drop their donated coats off at the
restaurant located at 137 Schenectady Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). For more information, please call Mr. Simmons at 347-528-2662.

**Ms. Granville** announced that Sandy Taggert, an active community resident, is having a solo art exhibition at Five Myles Gallery at 558 St. John’s Place. She encouraged people to visit the exhibit to support their neighbor.

**Mr. James Ellis** announced that the health insurance enrollment plan is quickly approaching. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has information to assist anyone that is looking to change plans but may not know which plan to switch to or the pros and cons of each plan. He instructed people to call the Chamber for one-on-one assistance as November 15th starts open enrollment. This is especially important for people participating in the Affordable Care Act.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and everyone for coming out to the meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7 PM at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church located at 856 Pacific Street (near Vanderbilt Avenue). All are invited to attend.

**GUESTS**

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<th>Edison Stewart</th>
<th>Sudesh Mungroo</th>
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<td>Tania Khalfani</td>
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