Community Board No. 8  
Calvary Community Church  
1575 St. John’s Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11233  

January 9, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members Present</th>
<th>Members Absent/Excused</th>
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<tr>
<td>Akosua Albritton</td>
<td>Kim Albert</td>
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<td>Glinda Andrews</td>
<td>Princes Benn James</td>
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<td>Desmond Atkins</td>
<td>Samantha Bernardine</td>
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<td>Wayne Bailey</td>
<td>Julia Boyd</td>
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<td>LeeAnn Banks</td>
<td>Helen Coley</td>
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<td>Gail Branch Muhammad</td>
<td>Renaye Cuyler</td>
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<td>Dr. Flize Bryan</td>
<td>Dian Duke</td>
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<td>Adem Bunkeddeko</td>
<td>Phu Duong</td>
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<td>James Ellis</td>
<td>Priscilla Maddox</td>
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<td>Diana Foster</td>
<td>Dr. Frederick Monderson</td>
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<td>Ede Fox</td>
<td>Robert Puca</td>
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<td>Fred Frazier</td>
<td>Cy Richardson</td>
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<td>Nizjoni Granville</td>
<td>Patricia Scantlebury</td>
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<td>Curtis Harris</td>
<td>Stacey Sheffey</td>
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<td>Xeerxeema Jordan</td>
<td>Sharon Wedderburn</td>
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<td>Shalawn Langhorne</td>
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<td>Tarves Lord</td>
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<td>Robert Matthews</td>
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<td>Kwasi Mensah</td>
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<td>Adelaide Miller</td>
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<td>Alton Pierce</td>
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<td>Marlene Saunders</td>
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<td>Meredith Staton</td>
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<td>Audrey Taitt-Hall</td>
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<td>Ethel Tyus</td>
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<td>Deborah Young</td>
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<td>Vilma Zuniga</td>
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<th>Elected Officials Present</th>
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<td>Judge Michael Gerstein</td>
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<th>Elected Official Representatives</th>
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<td>Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy</td>
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<td>Vincent Haynes, Assemblyman Camara</td>
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<td>Dynishal Gross, Councilman Cornegy</td>
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<td>Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke</td>
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<td>Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery</td>
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<td>Jesse Hamilton, 20th Senatorial District</td>
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<th>CB 8 Staff</th>
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<td>Michelle George</td>
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<td>Julia Neale</td>
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The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the Chairperson, Ms. Granville. She opened the floor for public comments.

**Arna Lipkind** from Councilwoman Darlene Mealy’s office announced the upcoming Community Advisory Board meeting at the Councilwoman’s office located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 10 AM. A representative from the Brooklyn Public Library will be in attendance to discuss their adult literacy program and GED programs. She also distributed fliers for the upcoming Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, which is offering a training and capacity building workshop on January 30, 2014 from 6-8 PM at 203 Ralph Avenue.

**Ms. Deborah Young**, President of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA), announced the winners of the holiday lighting contest for homeowners in the Crown Heights area. First place was 1115 Bergen Street, which won a $175 prize; 2nd place was 1250 Dean, 3rd Place was a tie between 742 Sterling Place and 842 Park Place. The next CHNA meeting is February 19th at St. Gregory’s Roman Catholic Church located at the corner of St. John’s Place and Brooklyn Avenue at 6:30 PM.

**Vincent Haynes** from Assemblyman Camara’s office announced that the Legislature has resumed. The district office is located on 1216 Union Street and the telephone number is 718.771.3105. He urged constituents to please reach out if they have any concerns, issues, or comments.

**Ethel Tyus** announced that the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) is busily working on getting State and national register listing for the two historic districts. Those that own property should have received letters stating that they are now on the State Register of Historic Place. In the next 45 days, the historic districts should be included in the national register, which means that property owners could be eligible for extensive tax breaks on the state and federal levels.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their comments and asked for roll call.

**Acceptance of Minutes** -- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with any necessary corrections.

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

**Aging/Health** -- Ms. Marlene Saunders, Chair; Dr. Flize Bryan, Co-Chair

The Aging/Health Committee met on Monday, January 6, 2014 at CNR. In addition to the Chair and Co-Chair, also present were Robert Matthews, Kwasi Mensah and guest speakers from START Treatment and Recovery Centers, Lawrence Brown, Jr. – CEO, Valerie Peters, Gabrielle Taylor, Renee Sumpter, and Peter Duda.

START representatives stated that START is a substance-abuse support center, dedicated towards a “whole-person” approach. They gave a video presentation focused around testimonies from former clients, helped by START, which has been in existence since 1969, and has taken
on the challenges, both social and political, in intervention in those whose lives have been sidetracked because of drug and alcohol abuse. They have locations in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx (WWW.STARTNY.ORG).

The organization is seeking to take over operations of the Interfaith Methadone Clinic located at 880 Bergen Street. The clinic will operate with the same caseload, just under new management.

The next meeting of the Aging/Health Committee will be Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Career Building – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair

Ms. Tyus, on behalf of the committee, stated that the Career Building committee is acting as the incubator for Catalyst Network Foundation, a group of mid-twenties to early 30s individuals seeking to enhance the educational experience of youth and veterans. The Foundation has a summer intensive program that takes place within the Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, but funds are needed to pay LIU’s fees to host their summer program. As such, Catalyst is hosting three fundraisers to help raise money to fund this summer’s course. She distributed fliers for each of the fundraisers, and encouraged everyone to contribute to Catalyst since it was started to better assist the youth of Community Board No. 8.

The next meeting of the Career Building Committee will be on February 20, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee will meet on January 14, 2014. At the meeting, they will discuss a request for proposal (RFP) and hear a proposal from Mr. Eban Singer, principal of Union Kitchen. Union Kitchen proposes to respond to the New York City Economic Development Corporation’s proposal for a for-profit culinary business incubator. This incubator would be located at 1000 Dean Street between Franklin and Classon Avenues and would replace the 3rd Ward Culinary Incubator project. This particular group is based out of Washington, DC and runs a series of groups. About $1 million could come into the community if they come. We need to give them ideas on the space and how to utilize it, what is needed in the community, etc.

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center. The committee will continue discussing its upcoming Economic Forum. Part of the reason for the Economic forum is to understand what the community needs as far as retail needs. The forum will also be used to think about what the M1-1 zone needs. All are invited to attend.

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

The Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at CNR. In addition to the Co-Chairs, present were Audrey Taitt-Hall, Adem Bunkeddeko, and Frederica McLean, Director of Living Above Disorder.
Ms. McLean explained the goal of Living Above Disorder (LAD), an educational and organizational development consulting collective purposed to address the need for consistent alignment between the person, the organization, and a plan for success. She presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined and highlighted the group’s objectives and successes in assisting children and families with developmental, behavioral, and educational issues.

Ms. McLean offered her consulting services to parents of children in Community Board No. 8. She stated that her organization can help parents deal with many issues faced with low-income communities. For more information, call 646-481-6570 or visit liveabove@livingabovedisorder.org.

Finally, the deadline to apply for Kindergarten is February 14, 2014. Also, this Saturday the 11th at Boys and Girls HS, from 8-11 AM, there will be a presentation on the common core curriculum. Parents of school aged children are encouraged to attend to learn about the education their children will receive.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Environment/Sanitation** – Ms. Ede Fox and Ms. Helen Coley, Co-Chairs

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on December 17, 2013 but had no report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Co-Chair, present were Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Curtis Harris, Danae Oratowski, Stacey Sheffey, Mary Aikens-Reed, Greg Todd, Meredith Staton, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following items:

1. **906 Prospect Place – Accessory Off-site Parking for Brooklyn Children’s Museum – Crown Heights North II Historic District**

   Margaret Walton, Director of Government and Community Affairs for the Brooklyn Children’s Museum presented the Museum’s application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for a Special Permit to use 906 Prospect Place as off-site accessory parking because the site is more than 200’ but less than 600’ from the Museum. The property is currently a parking lot, and has a partially sealed two-story structure that was deemed non-contributing by LPC, and formerly used as a garage with an apartment above. The project plan includes demolition of the building for the construction of a 31 space parking lot for use by Museum patrons Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. ZR §§73-452 and 25-532 allow issuance of a special permit when the applicant can show that the lot will be so “located as to draw a minimum of vehicular
traffic to and through streets having predominantly residential frontages.”

Residents in attendance voiced concerns and made inquiries regarding various aspects of how the lot will be used. Ms. Walton agreed to invite local block and/or neighborhood association members to provide suggestions for addressing community issues during the detailed planning process. The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter of support for the project.

Federal funds will be used by the City for the estimated $3.6 million acquisition and construction costs. The project will be subject to the ULURP and completion time is estimated at two to three years. The committee voted 10 in favor, with two against and one abstention to support the application on condition that the community would be consulted regarding:

- operation and staffing outside of Museum hours
- whether a concessionaire and/or valet parking will be used
- deployment of low-impact LED lighting
- installation of security cameras
- gate operations and avoiding late night noise
- advance notice to neighbors during the planning process, and
- requests for community resident preference for off-hour parking.

The committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation given the educational and commercial roles the Museum plays in this community.

Please note that in a subsequent communication, Ms. Walton indicated that the current BSA application process does not permit off-hour use by the community.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Pierce and seconded Staton. It carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 3 opposed with 2 abstentions.

2. 138 Underhill Avenue - Replacement of a Deteriorated Window Bay - Prospect Heights Historic District
Bryce Taylor, R.A. presented an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the interior renovation of all floors of 138 Underhill Avenue, a Romanesque / Renaissance Revival style brownstone rowhouse built c. 1896 by William H. Reynolds. The building consists of three stories and a basement. The project includes replacement of a badly deteriorated oriel / three window bay at the rear of the parlor floor with new sliding glass doors with transoms, and the addition of a deck off the parlor floor rear, with a staircase to the rear yard. The deck will be minimally visible from Park Place. Mr. Taylor said notice letters have been sent to the abutting neighbors and was asked to provide copies to the Board office. He said the LPC hearing is scheduled for the first week in February. PHNDC has provided a letter of support for the project. The Committee voted 13 in favor to support the project and hopes the full board will do the same.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Ms. Albritton and seconded by Ms. Lord. It carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 2 opposed, with 0 abstentions.
3.  **567 Vanderbilt Avenue - Stair Bulkhead - Prospect Heights Historic District**

Applicant Steve Fishman and architect Frid Branham requested community support for a Certificate of Appropriateness for an overbuilt bulkhead constructed 10” higher and further back on the roof than the approved plans for 567 Vanderbilt Ave. The site is a four story Neo-Grec building with a store and seven apartments constructed c. 1898 by John W. Bailey. Mr. Fishman said his contractor had erred in executing the project; that he had received a violation from LPC; and had agreed to reduce the bulkhead to comply with the approved plan. The material he provided appeared to show that the additional setback made the bulkhead less visible from the street than a bulkhead constructed according to the approved plan would have been. Based on this assessment, Mr. Fishman said he will ask LPC to approve the bulkhead as built.

A representative from PHNDC moved to support the application as approved but indicated that they would not object to LPC approving the existing overbuilt bulkhead. The Committee voted 12 in favor with one abstention to approve the bulkhead as built and hopes the full board will do the same.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Pierce and seconded by Ms. Langhorne. It carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

4. **181 Park Place - Stair Bulkhead – Prospect Heights Historic District**

Benjamin Ellis, R.A. presented the owner's application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to construct a stair bulkhead and 42" railings on the roof of this Italianate rowhouse built prior to 1869. The LPC Designation Report (6/23/09) indicates the building was once the home of John T. Pirie, a founder of the Chicago-based dry goods firm of Carson Pirie Scott & Co. remains largely intact. Mr. Ellis explained that the bulkhead was 12” over the height approvable at the staff level by LPC. A COA requires a hearing, which is scheduled for 1/7/14.

Mr. Ellis provided copies of three of four letters notifying neighbors as requested by CB 8 and was advised to provide a copy of all the letters to the CB 8 office prior to the full board meeting on 1/9/14. The bulkhead would be substantially visible from across the street. Based on the negative precedent that approval of this type of alteration represents, a representative of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) moved to withhold support for the alteration. The 13 committee members voted unanimously not support this application, and hopes that the full Board will ratify its decision, which had to be transmitted to LPC in time for the 1/7/14 hearing.

Ms. Tyus noted that LPC approved the application with modifications that the bulkhead be moved further back to be made less visible. The vote is to approve the committee’s recommendation for the record.

After a brief discussion period to clarify the committee’s recommendation and the Board’s vote, a motion was made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Pierce to support the ratification vote. It carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

Finally, the committee discussed the following:
• Developer of 1515 Bedford Avenue, a 10 story building planned for corner of Lincoln Place requested an adjournment to a date when they are ready to or have submitted their application to the BSA.

• The next CHNA meeting will be Wed 2/19/14, 6:45 p at St Gregory’s Church, St Johns Pl at Brooklyn Ave. NYS Historic Preservation Office will present detailed information on accessing preservation tax credits for work on historic properties in the State Historic Registry.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**M1-1** – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The M1-1 Committee met on Monday, December 16, 2013 at CNR. The M1-1 Zone subcommittee continues exploratory discussions on formulating a standard policy or framework for reviewing requests for variances in blocks 1126, 1134, and 1142; the area bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Bergen Street, and Classon Avenue. A representative from the Pratt Center has been invited to participate in the discussions for the next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair; Ms. Kim Albert, Co-Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, January 7, 2014. Ms. Andrews announced that Ms. Albert is back in the hospital. She also announced that the next Awareness Day is coming in June and anyone with information on a community service provider that might be interested in doing community outreach at the event should contact the District office for a registration form.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 6 PM at the St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. All are invited to attend.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 23, 2013 at the 78th Precinct. The committee is still working with police and residents to help bridge the gap in relations to create stronger police-community bonds. Also, Ms. Langhorne urged everyone to be very careful with home heating with the weather and to follow proper heating protocols.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Mr. Alton Pierce and Mr. James Ellis, Co-Chairs
The SLAC committee met on Monday, January 6, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and discussed the following items:

1. Sidewalk Café Permit for Ideya Brooklyn, 636 Carlton Avenue (between Flatbush and Park Place)
   - Operate a sidewalk café per NYC DCA on the same terms and conditions as predecessor establishment Carlton Park
   - Closing by 10PM Sun-Wed and 11PM Thu-Sat

   The committee voted unanimously to approve the application with the stipulations and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

   A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Witherwax and seconded by Ms. Granville. It carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. The committee voted unanimously to approve the following renewal applications and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation:

   a. Branded Cattle Saloon, 603 Vanderbilt Avenue (Bergen) – Full
   b. Siempre Amigos, 629 Franklin Avenue (Dean/Bergen) – Full
   c. Bar Corvo, 791 Washington Avenue (St. John’s/Lincoln) – Full

   A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Tyus. It carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 3 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next meeting of the SLAC committee will be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Transportation** – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The Transportation Committee did not meet in the month of the December. The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. The committee is going to revise the street co-naming policy and may be addressing the issue of bike corrals at this and future meetings. All are invited to attend.

**Youth/Family Services** – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth/Family Services Committee did not meet its regularly scheduled day because of the New Year’s holiday. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2014 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. The committee is in the process of putting together a letter to help combat the youth homeless issue, especially those that are aging out of the foster care system. All are invited to attend.
Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and asked for additional public comments.

**Mr. Jim Vogel** from Senator Montgomery’s office stated that Senator Montgomery would like to work with the Community Board on economic growth. On Thursday, January 16, 2014 from 10-12:30 at the 3rd Avenue YWCA, there will be a meeting for waterfronts to maintain services and industrial nature of the city. Even though the focus is on the waterfront areas, the Senator would like feedback from inland areas. Since space is extremely limited, contact the Senator’s office at 718-643-6140 to RSVP.

**Mr. Charles Jackson** from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s office stated that New York State is on target for enrollment in the Affordable Care Act. The state will soon have the numbers they were projecting, at about 1.5 million enrollees. 855-355-5777 is the state hotline number to call for information or to sign up if your previous health insurance plan no longer exists because they did not meet minimum standards.

**Ms. Dynishal Gross** from Councilman Cornegy’s office stated that the Councilman has submitted a priority list of necessary repairs for schools in the district. She announced that the Councilman’s office space still in flux, but the telephone number from former Councilman Albert Vann will be kept. The new office will be located in Restoration Plaza on the 5th Floor. Ms. Tyus suggested that the students from the trades high schools be used as trainees to help repair some of these schools to gain necessary experience and also to lessen the cost of the repairs. Ms. Gross stated that she would take the recommendation back to the Councilman.

**Judge Michael Gerstein** announced that he is pleased to visit Community Board No. 8. He reminded everyone that as a sitting judge on Brooklyn’s Criminal Court, it is imperative to get to know the constituents he represents and the needs of the community.

**Ms. Langhorne** wished a happy 90th birthday to Adelaide Miller, a longtime member of CB 8, who rarely misses meetings.

**Mr. Jesse Hamilton**, representative for the 20th Senatorial District, now vacated with the election of Eric Adams to Brooklyn Borough president, stated that the District office is still open and conducting business. The office remains located at 1669 Bedford Avenue and the telephone number is 718-284-4700.

With no further issues to be discussed, Ms. Granville adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of Community Board No. 8 will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

**Guests**

Leroy Reid
Sheryl Vassell
Beatrice Logan
Margaret Walton
Charled Hayden
G. Reid
Donna Panton
Steve Fishman
Audrey Andrews
A. Wadud
A. Nuelani
Shirley Mondesir
Esteban Austin
Becca lynch
Gerard Kouwenhoven
Ade Oluwu
Eloise true
Daniel Zetiner
Jacob Somers
M. Vann
Bryce Taylor
Clinton Wallace
Frederica McLean
Theo Dicastri
Margo Kulkumi