Community Board No. 8  
Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation  
727 Classon Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  

February 27, 2014

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<tr>
<th>Members Present</th>
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<td>Kim Albert</td>
<td>Samantha Bernardine</td>
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<td>Akosua Albritton</td>
<td>Julia Boyd</td>
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<td>Glinda Andrews</td>
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<td>Princess Benn-James</td>
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<td>Gail Branch-Muhammad</td>
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<td>Dr. Flize Bryan</td>
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**Elected Official Representatives**

- Dynishal Gross, Councilman Cornegy
- Drew Gabriel, Councilwoman Cumbo
- Nora Daniel, Councilwoman Mealy
- Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke

**Liasons Present**

- Kicy Motley, Mayor’s Office, CAU

**CB 8 Staff**

- Michelle George
- Julia Neale

The general meeting was called to order at 7:15 by the Chair, Ms. Nizjoni Granville. The Sergeant at Arms, Mr. James Ellis asked everyone to please silence their cell phones, take any conversations outside, keep their voices down in hallway if they felt the need to talk, and be mindful that the meeting was occurring in a nursing home.
Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the January meeting were accepted with corrections called into the office by Ms. Tyus.

Correspondence – The CB 8 newsletter was mailed to members and the community prior to the rescheduled meeting. Other correspondence was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked Mr. Williams to give an update on the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Brooklyn Museum of Art – Mr. George Williams, Community Affairs Associate

Mr. Williams reminded everyone that the BMA is a suggested donation museum. Any amount is appreciated, unless it is a ticketed event.

A new exhibit titled “Witness: Civil Rights in the 60s,” will be opening on March 7th and will run through July 6, 2014. There will be 103 works from different mediums on display. Numerous public programs will be held throughout the month of March. Mr. Williams distributed brochures with a calendar of events.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Williams for the update and asked Mr. DeGear from Settlement Housing Fund for a report.

Settlement Housing Fund – Mr. Tony DeGear

Mr. DeGear informed the Board of a few programs at Dreams Youth Build. Primarily, the adult GED program that meets on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 AM to 12:15 PM, has a few extra slots open. The GED now follows common core curriculum. If you are interested in either taking the GED or doing a GED prep program, go to 1604 St. John’s Place Tuesday mornings. The family center is seeking to expand the program, but in order to expand it, additional participants are needed. For more information on the GED Program, call 212-265-6530.

He also stated that the St. John’s Place Family Center has a community garden next to 1630 St. John’s Place. Volunteers put in planters and soil last year. Planting will begin in March weather permitting. There are 10 garden boxes, and the garden is looking for participants and volunteers. The garden is charging $25 for the plot and each participant must donate 10 hours in the garden for the season. Tools and soil are available. While the space was always used as community garden, it was recently taken over by the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust. For more information on the garden and participation, call 718-771-7720.

Finally, Mr. DeGear announced that the St. John’s Family Center has a day care program for children 2-4 years old. A few extra slots are available for kids. There is a sliding fee scale.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. DeGear for his information and asked Ms. Motley from the Mayor’s Office to give an update on Universal Pre-K.

Mayor’s Office, Community Assistance Unit – Ms. Kerby Motley, Brooklyn Borough Director

Ms. Motley, stated that residents should reach out to her office with any concerns you have in community or if you have any ideas to make city better. As far as the mayor’s plan for Universal Pre-K (UPK), it will be a full day pre-k for every 4 year old in the city. Currently, about 50,000
kids that do not participate in pre-k programs. She reiterated how important it is for kids to get a good start on their education, at a younger age. UPK helps to prevent kids from falling behind. There is also an afterschool component to the program for middle schools to keep those students occupied between 3 and 6 pm, which in turn should make them more productive and better students.

An important part of the mayor’s plan is how to fund UPK. He would like to eliminate uncertainty over funding each year by instituting a tax on people making more than $500,000 a year. The UPK tax will equal to less than 1% of taxable income. However, in order to be able to institute this tax, approval must come from Albany. Unfortunately, most of the legislative body in Albany and Governor Cuomo do not agree with the plan and Mayor de Blasio, on the other hand, does not believe that the governor’s plan to fund UPK as part of the overall state budget is adequate. Mayor de Blasio believes that there has to be a dedicated revenue stream and with the governor’s plan, a dedicated funding plan is not present. Ms. Motley urged those present to contact their state officials to lobby them to support the mayor’s plan.

Contact information for Ms. Motley is kmotley@cityhall.nyc.gov and the telephone number is 347-331-2327.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Motley for the information. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

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

The Aging/Health Committee did not meet for the month of February. However, Mr. Mensah, a member of the committee, introduced Dr. Lawrence Brown of START Treatment and Recovery Centers, the entity that is overtaking operations of the Interfaith Methadone Clinic at 880 Bergen Street.

Dr. Brown stated that START focuses on remedying the consequences of an unhealthy lifestyle. Methadone is studied more by the FDA than any other drug because of its treatment effectiveness on heroin addicts. Methadone is a more popular choice now because of the heroin-related death of the actor, Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Dr. Brown encouraged everyone to come visit their clinic to hear the success stories that are not usually shared with people because of the stigma associated with addiction.

Mr. Mensah thanked Dr. Brown for his brief report and informed everyone that the next Aging/Health Committee meeting would be held on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30 at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Career Building** – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair

The Career Building committee continues to work with the Catalyst Network Foundation on increasing visibility and finding additional funding sources for their summer program. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.
**Economic Development** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee did not meet in the month of February. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. The committee will discuss why it is important to invest in the community not only from a business perspective, but also from a consumer’s perspective. It will also continue to discuss the upcoming Economic Forum scheduled for April. All are invited to attend.

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

Mr. Mensah announced that the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) is sponsoring a trip to Albany on March 4, 2014 for those in favor of Universal Pre-K and the mayor’s plan to fund it with a tax on the city’s wealthy. To sign up for the trip, you must call the UFT at 212-777-7500 by February 28th or visit uft.org.

The next Education meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Environment/Sanitation** – Ms. Ede Fox, Chair; Ms. Helen Coley, Co-Chair

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at CNR. Ms. Fox made a public plea for members because she was the only person present at the meeting. She asked those with environmental or Sanitation issues to please come to the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

**Executive** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Executive Committee is seeking the Board’s approval to give executive authority to the Housing/ULURP Committee to render decisions on applications that come before the committee when the official agency hearing for the application occurs prior to our general meeting but after the Housing Committee meeting. Currently, when such instances arise with applications pertaining to the Board of Standards and Appeals or Landmarks Preservation Commission, the committee sends a conditional letter of support to the city agency based on ratification by the general membership. This reduces the power of the letter and also partially silences the Community Board’s power to voice opinions on the application. Supporting executive authority in such cases would allow the committee to speak on behalf of the Board and would also save time during general meetings. It will also eliminate the potential for the Board to vote against the committee’s already stated position, thus rendering us entirely mute on the subject matter.

The Executive committee, as a result of the foregoing, moves that the full Board gives executive authority to the Housing/ULURP to render official positions on applications whose hearings occur prior to the Community Board general meeting.

There were a few questions as to how often the need would arise for the Housing Committee to have to speak on behalf of the Board. While no exact number was given, it was confirmed that it is happening more frequently as the Housing Committee’s recommendation both last month and this month had to be ratified at the general meeting well after the application’s hearing was held. While in many circumstances, there is enough time to prevent normal protocol from being
circumvented, there are occasions where hearings are held prior to the full board meeting. In these instances, it is imperative that a community board opinion be registered on the matter.

Mr. Witherwax added that according to the addendum that the Executive Committee had agreed upon in the meeting, the Executive Committee needs to receive a housing committee report prior to any letters submitted on behalf of projects to vet and review the Housing Committee’s actions. A motion to support giving executive authority to the Housing Committee to make decisions on behalf of the full Board in certain circumstances was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Todd. It carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met February 6, 2014 at CNR. Present were Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Yves Vilus, Victoria Sottile, Allison Kelley, Daniel Malator, Jim Purvis, Dan Siegel, Mike Morgan, LeRoy Reid, Deborah Young, and Michelle George. The committee discussed the following LPC application:

**960 Sterling Place - Crown Heights North Historic District – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for Wheelchair Ramp**

Daniel Siegel, PE of DS Engineering Services presented a proposal to install a wheelchair accessible ramp at the entrance of 960 Sterling Place located at the southeast corner of Sterling Place and New York Avenue. Site is a Colonial Revival style 79-unit apartment building designed by Jacob W. Sherman built c. 1938. The building currently has two (2) steps up from the entrance walkway to the entry door. The proposed ramp will provide ADA-compliant barrier-free wheelchair access by eliminating these two (2) steps.

The ramp will be constructed of concrete laid over the existing concrete walkway with a 30’ length and a 12” rise. The building has a large front courtyard setback from the sidewalk along Sterling Place. The new ramp will be constructed entirely within the courtyard, and will only be visible from the sidewalk when standing directly in front of the courtyard entrance. It will be constructed within the center of the courtyard to maintain the symmetry of the yard. The committee explored options including constructing the ramp to the side and using vegetation as a blind. Mr. Siegel indicated that this option had been explored and rejected by the co-op members. The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter of support for the application, which was scheduled for hearing at LPC on 2/18/14.

Because the February 13th CB 8 general meeting was postponed due to the snowstorm, the committee’s recommendation served as the official position of the Board. This vote is to ratify the committee’s recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to ratify the committee’s support of the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Atrium at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.
M1-1 – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The M1-1 Zone subcommittee met February 24, 2014 at CNR. Present were Ethel Tyus, Diana Foster, Paula Crespo, James Ellis, Jonathan Butler, Marc Aggler, Jonathan Berman, Dan Matthew, Susan Boyle, Benton Brown, Rodney Seymour, and Earl Drummond.

The committee continues exploratory discussions with area stakeholders on the best approach to encourage any residential development occurring there to include affordable housing to a substantial degree. The target area was expanded to be the six block area bounded by Grand Ave., Atlantic Ave., Franklin Avenue, and Bergen St. (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142). Map attached. The committee also discussed: adding detail to the definition of affordable housing (owned or rented) to the costs of shelter and utilities (gas, lights, water) to 25% of average CB 8 income, and allowing landlords to adjust the rent as the tenants' income increases so that long term tenants will not be forced out.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR 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, February 4th at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. In addition to the Chair, also present were Penny Krakoff, Emily Dinan, Willard Hawkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Thomas Montford, Larry James, Jeff Cooper, Desmond Atkins, and Leah Li.

Emily-Bell Dinan from the Roger that Garden Project made a presentation concerning their efforts to save the community garden at 115 Rogers Avenue at the corner of Park Place. The community has been nurturing the garden for approximately 8 years. The garden, once a privately owned dilapidated hardware store that was demolished by the city in 2006, was recently purchased by TYC Realty despite many attempts of the Crown Heights Youth Collective to contact the original owner to protect the space that had become a gem in the community. The attorney for the Roger that Garden Project is in communication with TYC Realty to have the property sold to the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust for preservation as a garden space rather than razed and developed.

The Roger that Garden Project is seeking a letter of support from Community Board 8 to bolster their efforts to obtain and maintain the rights to the garden space. The committee voted to support sending a letter of support for the venture.

Ms. Benn-James noted that when the Roger that Garden Project took over the lot, they knew it was private land. There is another lot further down the block that they took over as well. Mr. Todd stated that there was another garden that was converted to a parking lot for a school, and that this garden was used as a substitute for that lost lot and garden space.

Ms. Oton asked what price range they are negotiating the lot for, and was informed that they are in the process of getting legal advice. Ms. Tyus suggested that they and the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust (BQLT) try to strike a deal where the full value is written off as a charitable contribution to the BQLT.
Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to support submitting a letter of support for the Roger that Garden’s endeavors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pierce and carried with a final tally of 28 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

Furthermore, at the Parks meeting, Mr. Larry James, the manager of St. John’s Recreation Center, gave an update on the center’s activities. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 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 February 24, 2014 at the 77th Precinct. Ms. Langhorne announced that in March, the committee will resume its regular meeting schedule on the 3rd Monday and will also cease alternating meetings at the 77th and 78th Precincts and meet solely at the 77th Precinct.

Ms. Langhorne also announced that Commissioner Bratton appointed a new Chief for Community Affairs, Chief Jaffey. She replaces Chief Chan who is now Chief of the Transit Bureau. On March 2nd from 10-2, the NYPD is hosting a document shredding event at Gateway Center, located at 501 Gateway drive, across from Babies R Us.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**SLA & Sidewalk Café Review (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis and Mr. Alton Pierce, Co-Chairs

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2014 at CNR. The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Stocked LLC, 635 Vanderbilt Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect)—café seeking beer/wine license
   a. Hours of operation 8 AM to 9 PM Monday thru Friday; 9 AM to 9 PM Saturday; 9 AM to 8 PM Sunday
   b. 23 seats at 5 tables on the interior with a backyard space with 6 tables and 24 seats, closing at 9 PM Monday thru Saturday and 8 PM on Sunday. No music played in backyard.
   c. No police objections.

   The committee voted to support the application. Mr. Pierce made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

2. Ogliastro, 784 Washington Avenue (Sterling/St. John’s)—brick oven artisanal pizzeria seeking full liquor license.
   a. 8 seats at a separate bar with an additional 11 tables and 22 seats
   b. Hours of operation are 11 AM to 1 AM Monday thru Thursday, 11 AM to 2 AM Friday; 10 AM to 2 AM Saturday; 10 AM to 1 AM Sunday
   c. Outdoor seating area with 15 tables and 30 chairs to close at 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday
 d. 500 foot exception required, and the community benefit is that the type of restaurant is unique to Washington Avenue
 e. No police objections

The committee voted to support the application. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

3. Silver Rice, 638 Park Place (near Franklin)—restaurant seeking beer and wine license
   a. Seating for 14 inside, 6 outside
   b. Hours of Operation from 11 AM to 11 PM Sunday through Thursday, and 11 AM through 12 AM Friday and Saturday.
   c. Outdoor space to close at 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday
   d. No police objections

The committee voted to support the application. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

4. The committee also voted to support the following renewal applications:

   - The Spot, 417 Prospect, Full Liquor
   - Q’s Tavern, 761 Nostrand, Full
   - Endless Visions, 739 Franklin, Full
   - Marco’s, 295 Flatbush, Full
   - Franklin Park, 618 St, Johns, Full
   - Bar Sepia, 234 Underhill, Full

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the renewal applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pierce and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next SLAC committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Atrium at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at CNR. Present were Dr. Frederick Monderson, Robert Witherwax, Holly Fuchs, Chris McNally, Meredith Staton, Jacqueline Wells, Carl Leighty, Hayes Lord, Inbar Kishon, Ronda Messer, Greg Todd, Alan Gerber, Constance Nugent Miller, J. Anthony Holbert, Rohon A. Williams, and David Christini.

The committee discussed the bike corral proposed for Ideya Brooklyn located at 636 Carlton Avenue. Each corral consists of sufficient parking for 8-10 bikes, and the corral itself is on the street, taking the place of one (1) parking spot. This particular one at Ideya has the advantage of eliminating a corner parking spot that blocked the view of bikes and cars. The Ideya bike corral is supported by the North Flatbush BID and the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC). Another public hearing will be held on the proposed bike corral location prior to the full Board voting on the matter to give additional community residents time to weigh in on the matter.
Additionally, the committee is in the process of revamping their street co-naming requirements to make them more cohesive and stronger. Finally, in March, the Dept. of Transportation will hold a public hearing on a proposed Franklin Avenue Traffic Calming study. The study, while in the preliminary phase, seeks to reduce the number of travel lanes from two narrow lanes to one safer and wider travel lane with a clearly defined bike lane. Information on the hearing will be distributed when it is received.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2013 at 7 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at CNR. For many months, the committee has been preparing a letter to send to various elected officials and City agency heads regarding youth aging out of foster care and accountability. The final version of the letter has been drafted, and the committee sought the Board’s support in sending the letter to Mayor deBlasio, Public Advocate James, Councilwoman Cumbo, Comptroller Stringer, and the Commissioners of ACS and the Dept. of Homeless Services. The committee is seeking accountability for the number of youth that have aged out of foster care and find themselves in adult homeless shelters.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the Youth Committee’s desire to send a letter to the officials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next Youth and Family Services Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Atlantic Yards Quality of Life** – Mr. Wayne Bailey, Representative for CB 8

Mr. Bailey gave an update from the Atlantic Yards Quality of Life Committee, a joint committee with representatives from CBs 2, 6, and 8. He stated that 3 parking spaces on Dean Street were taken away to be used as a turning lane. It was not being highly utilized, so now the spaces are going to go back to the community to be used for parking.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs and representatives for their reports and acknowledged the elected official representatives present.

**Ms. Dynishal Gross** from Councilman Cornegy’s office announced that the tax lien sale list has been published. Central Brooklyn is problematically represented on the list. The City Council, Dept. of Finance, and other city agencies are working with property owners to resolve their bills. Quite a few churches and non profits are on the list this year because they have failed to renew their property tax exemptions. There is only a limited amount of time to solve the problem before the lien is sold to a private party. If you are on the lien sale list or know someone that is, please call or have them call 212-788-7354 for assistance in getting off before the final sale.

Also, Ms. Gross announced that Councilman Cornegy’s district Office will be located in Restoration Plaza at 1360 Fulton Street on the 5th Floor. The grand opening of the office will be held on March 14, 2014.
Ms. Nora Daniel from Councilwoman Mealy’s office announced that the Councilwoman is hosting a black history month event tomorrow from 10 AM-Noon at 392 Blake Avenue. There will be a jazz tribute as part of the event. Also, the monthly advisory board meeting will be this Saturday, March 1st from 10 AM to Noon at the Councilwoman’s District office located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor.

Mr. Charles Jackson from Congresswoman Clarke’s office stated that the Affordable Care Act deadline is approaching on March 31st. If you are having difficulty understanding the system and your rights, call the state at 855-355-5777 for assistance in navigating the site. By calling this number, you will be directed to a navigator that will help you with the process.

He also urged everyone to call Congressman John Boehner’s office to voice concerns regarding the Voters Rights Act Amendment that will be under review in the next weeks. His number in Washington, DC is 202-225-0600. Also, while calling, mention your support of the 1010 Minimum Wage Bill.

Mr. Drew Gabriel from Councilwoman Cumbo’s office stated that even though the District office for the Councilwoman is not open yet, services are still being delivered from the City Hall office. If you are a resident in need of assistance, call 212-788-7081.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected official representatives for their information and adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next meeting of Community Board No. 8 will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7 PM at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Q. Adonicam
Alex Barker
Frank Esquilin
Brandon Johnson
Matthew Fulton
Jonevan Hornsby
Dian McNeil
Gabrielle Taylor
John Harris
George Williams
Brittany Perl
Sheryl Vassell
Frank Reig

Salome Asega
Constance Nugent Miller
Alex Coffey
Kristen Halleck
Ton DeGear
Gabriel Darken
Mahayana Landonne
Tobi Jaiyesimi
Duane Benjamin
Ariana Deroache
Phil Hawkins
Andan Eddy
Emily Dinan
Theron Hope