Public Hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Requests FY 2016

The Public Hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2016 was called to order by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson, at 7:00 PM. She asked Mr. Desmond Atkins, Ms. Akosua Albritton, and Ms. Sharon Wedderburn to read each request and agency response before opening the floor for the public to comment.

A resident wanted to know who is responsible for making the requests. They were informed that the Community Board makes the requests with the assistance of the committees and the public, who emails, calls, sends letters, or otherwise submits their requests to the Board office. We try to do as much outreach as possible so we do not submit the same requests yearly.

Mr. Leroy Reid stated that there was no mention of intervention programs for kids ages 9-16 interacting with police. He was informed that such requests would fall under the auspices of after school and out of school time programs. Ms. Langhorne also informed him that the NYPD has various programs including the Explorer Programs, Cadets Programs, and others that perform those duties. Mr. Reid stated that there are still children that do not feel comfortable enough with the police to join these programs and go to their local precincts to participate. Ms. Langhorne informed him that there are several non-profit organizations that have youth programs. She referred him to reach out to them, and in the event he did not find what he was looking for, create the program to fill the void.

Mr. Atkins stated that he had been advocating for the 77th Precinct to go to schools and meet with students to get them to understand what public safety is about. He encouraged everyone to speak to police officers as they work for the public. Be cordial to them before something happens so they acknowledge your humanity.

Ms. Wedderburn stated that she is always concerned with responses that state “not recommended for funding”. She questioned why so many necessary items were not recommended for funding and recommended that we sit down with the agencies to understand why.

Mr. Atkins stated that the agency responses were not conducive to the needs of the community. Ms. Albritton quickly mentioned a number of the inadequate responses that she had singled out. Ms. George asked everyone to please state which responses they had concerns with so that the comment letter could reflect their concerns.

With a resounding dissatisfaction of the agency responses, Mr. Witherwax made a motion to acknowledge the agency responses and authorize the District office to send a letter detailing the
necessity of the requests. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellis and passed with a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their participation and closed the public hearing session.
March 12, 2015

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
James Ellis
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Curtis Harris
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Robert Puca
Mary Reed
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Greg Todd
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Rohon Williams
Robert Witherwax
Greg Yerman
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

Dian Duke
Phu Duong
Diana Foster
Philip Hawkins
Jamell Henderson
Tarves Lord
Atim Oton
Patricia Scantlebury
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Ethel Tyus
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Patterson, District Leader, 43rd A.D.
Geoffrey Davis, District Leader, 43rd A.D.

Elected Official Representatives

Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke’s Office
Karen Crawford, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office
Joan Eastmond, Senator Montgomery’s Office
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilwoman Cumbo’s Office
Kathleen Daniel, Borough President Eric Adams Office
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy’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 8:20 PM by Ms. Granville, Chairperson. She asked the Secretary, Ms. Akosua Albritton, to call the roll.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – Mr. Wayne Bailey made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meredith Staton and unanimously adopted by the Board.

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

Ms. Granville asked Chaplain Snow to say a few words on the behalf of Calvary Community Church.

**Calvary Community Church** – Chaplain Snow

Chaplain Snow welcomed everyone to Calvary Community Church and thanked the Community Board for having the monthly meeting at Calvary. She invited the community to come out to their Youth Explosion event on Friday, March 20, 2015 at 7PM. The children of Calvary and the community will be performing songs, dancing, and reciting poetry. Chaplain Snow also invited everyone to come out to Calvary Community Church on Sunday’s from 9-11AM for worship service.

Ms. Granville thanked Chaplain Snow for hosting the monthly community board meeting. She then asked for a presentation on the 77th Precinct Annex—Stable Building.

**77th Precinct Annex Stable Building** – Mr. Kevin Arscott, NYC Dept. of Design and Construction

Mr. Kevin Arscott and a representative from Yoshihara-McKee Architects made a presentation regarding the renovation of the 77th Precinct Annex Office—Stable Building located at 563 Grand Avenue. The two-story stable building is attached to the Annex that was not renovated in 1997 along with the main building. The renovated building will be used for additional office space. Some of these renovations include window replacements and the addition of clerical space.

Mr. Witherwax asked if there was any mechanism for getting rid of the shrubs and weeds in front of the building. Mr. Arscott stated that DDC had no say-so as far as the greenery is concerned and that this question would be directed to the NYPD.

Mr. Atkins asked, in relation to the water damage that the building has succumbed to, thus bringing forth these renovations, what plans are being put in place to prevent water damage from reoccurring. Mr. Arscott mentioned that the building was originally built with one drain on the roof which was not properly maintained, however, this time around they will try to avoid the issue of water damage in the future by installing two drains and have them properly maintained. Mr. Atkins also asked how electrical damage can be prevented. Mr. Arscott stated that he would direct that inquiry to the NYPD.

Mr. Veconi mentioned that this renovation is well needed and stressed that the vegetation outdoors needs to be addressed. He further added that the chain link fence does not really serve a purpose and is not fitting with the character of the building. Mr. Arscott stated that he would direct that inquiry to the NYPD.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the renovations with inclusion of the removal of the chain link fence and with the proviso that any excess greenery hindering the foundation should be removed as well. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final tally of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.
Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Arscott for the information and asked for a report from the following committees:

**Economic Development** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

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 did not meet for the month of March due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). All are invited to attend.

**Environment/Sanitation** – Ms. Helen Coley

The Environment/Sanitation committee met jointly with the Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were: Helen Coley, Robert Witherwax, Xeerxeema Jordan, Holly Fuchs, Elizabeth Haines, Zulika Bumpus, Phu Duong, Elizabeth Martin, Alan Gerber, Greg Todd, Rohon Williams, Chris McNally, Bonnie Nuzum, Meredith Staton, Brian Schmidt, Feizal Bengash, Nareena Nabibulina, Shane Ojar, and Denise Hubbard.

The committees discussed the Bioswale project for the Gowanus Canal which includes Prospect Heights. There are 44 bioswales slated for Community Board No. 8 and a total of about 90 for Community Boards 2, 6, and 8 combined. Bioswales are larger than usual tree pits with plantings and occasionally trees, to help absorb water run-off and prevent the over-saturation of the city’s sewer systems. The intent is to design sites to collect rain water using biowales to control discharge into the Gowanus Canal. The idea is to reduce street water going into the city’s sewer system. Potential negative effects of bioswales could be flooded basements from the excess groundwater near to where bioswales are installed.

Additionally, Greg Todd made a presentation about sorting waste, methodologies to control solid waste, and past, present, or future problems with waste management.

The next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation committee will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 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, March 2, 2015. In addition to the Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were Shalawn Langhorne and Zulika Bumpus.

The committee discussed mental health and how the community can effectively address it by not stigmatizing mental illness issues. The committee also discussed diabetes in which Ms. Langhorne suggested that the committee reach out to the American Diabetes Association in efforts of organizing a fund-raising walk.
The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 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 did not meet for the month of March due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 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**

The Parks Committee did not meet in the month of March due to inclement weather. The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the 78th Precinct but had no action items. Ms. Langhorne announced the retirement of Chief Gerald Nelson and stated that the new Chief of Brooklyn North would be Chief Maddrey.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue (corner of Bergen Street). 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, March 2, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the following items:

1) Renewal Applications:

   a) **Lincoln Station**, 409 Lincoln Place (corner of Washington) – Beer/Wine
   b) **Le Gamin**, 556 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean/Bergen) – Full (patio/deck indicated)
   c) **Sharlene’s**, 353 Flatbush Avenue (Park/Sterling) – Full
   d) **Cataldo’s**, 554 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean/Bergen) – Beer/Wine
   e) **Café Shane**, 794 Washington Avenue (Sterling/St. John’s) – Beer/Wine

The committee voted to support all 5 renewal applications and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Harris asked if there were any police issues with any of the establishments. He was informed that the committee was not notified of any complaints. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.
The committee also discussed the renewal application for Washington Commons located at 434 Park Place (corner of Washington) – Full (backyard)

Neighbors complained in 2013 and returned to state that while conditions have improved, there are still issues of noise, litter, patron behavior, hours, and rodents.

The proprietors admitted that mediation had stalled during the change of ownership and stated that they are willing to re-engage. At present, no food service is available on site, but looking to add later.

The committee voted to support the application with the following stipulations:

- Rear Yard must close no later than 10:30 PM Sun-Thu, 11:30 Fri-Sat
- Maximum capacity of rear yard is 60
- Proprietors will appear at the May SLAC Committee meeting to report on progress of mediation
- If food service is added, proprietors will treat same as an alteration, and will appear before SLAC.

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

Mr. Atkins queried regarding the occurrence of rodents if there had been rodent abatement and what their plans are in the future. He was informed that the proprietors presented health notices with no rodent issues. It was assumed that the rodents were not stemming from the establishment. Responding to Dr. Monderson’s question as to whether or not the concern of residents’ rodent complaints were satisfied, Mr. Ellis stated that he was unable to speak for the residents.

Ms. Albert asked for an explanation of why food services were stopped. She was informed that food service was never established within the establishment. The bar instead worked with other restaurants and offered a variety of delivery options or allowed customers to bring in their own food.

Mr. Harris asked for clarification on where the noise originated. He was informed that the noise originated from patrons out front and the large number of people in the rear yard.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2) New Applications:

Tom’s Restaurant, 782 Washington Avenue (corner of Sterling) – Full (enclosed sidewalk café)

- 61 seats inside, 50 seats outside in rear yard
- Letters of support from community and business owners; Proof of notification of neighbors submitted
- Hours of Operation: Seeking 7 or 8 AM to 2 AM seven days a week.
- Rear yard: seeking 7 or 8 AM -12 AM seven days a week, noise mitigation and greening intended
- Access to rear yard available for staff through kitchen; patrons cannot access rear yard from inside or vice versa except through front door.
The committee voted to support the application with the following stipulations:

- Establishment to stop service by 12AM Sun-Thu, 1 AM Fri-Sat
- Rear yard to open no earlier than 8 AM, close no later than 10 PM Sunday-Thursday, 11 PM Friday and Saturday.
- No amplified sound in rear yard
- No more than 50 patrons permitted in rear yard

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

As a point of clarity, Mr. Ellis explained that the proprietors are just exploring operational changes after a resident stated they would like the backyard of Tom’s to close at the same time as Ogliastro’s, which is the next door neighbor of Tom’s. He explained that Ogliastro’s backyard closes at 10:30 PM daily.

Mr. Mensah asked for clarity on the license. He was informed that this is the first time that the proprietors are seeking a liquor license.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention.

3) Alteration Applications:

**Rose’s, 295 Flatbush Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect), Reconfiguration of interior space and name change**

- Formerly Marco’s, same owners, no operational changes to hours, capacity, etc
- Bar and Grill food at lower price points
- Committee advised earlier opening, later closings mid-week

The committee voted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Ellis clarified that the alteration was a reconfiguration and minor interior renovations. When questioned by Ms. Albritton for specifics, he explained that it is interior design operations and a name change. All operational matters will remain the same. Mr. Witherwax thanked Ms. Stevens for sticking with Community Board 8, stating that Franny’s was a great attribute before it moved across the street to the Community Board 6 side of Flatbush Avenue.

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 34 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next meeting of the SLAC committee will be held on Monday, April 6, 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.
Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). In addition to the chair Robert Witherwax present were Xeerxeema Jordan, Helen Coley, Phu Duong, Greg Todd, Rohan Williams, and Meredith Staton.

At the October 28, 2014 Transportation Committee meeting, members voted to send a letter to all state and local representatives, advising them that we heard a presentation on the MOVE NY Fair Plan, that the committee supports the goals and mission of the MOVE NY Fair Plan, and requesting that they support it as well. We bring a motion before the Full Board tonight, asking that this Board support the MOVE NY Fair Plan as well.

Mr. Witherwax provided a very brief introduction to the initiative. He stated that transportation issues are vital to the city. Whenever problems arise with public transportation, the MTA says there is no money to fix the problem and that a fare hike is the only solution. Move NY has a new idea and plan to get a new funding stream to support transportation and operational improvements.

A resident asked where the money comes from and was informed that the central notion is that there is an illogical flow of traffic thru the city. The bridges and tunnels that go to the congested parts of the city are free and have a ton of traffic, but the bridges and tunnels that do not go to the congested parts of the city have little traffic but cost a lot of money. Mr. Puca stated that the idea is to put tolls on the East river crossings in both directions. Mr. Witherwax stated that the suggested toll is $5.50 each direction on the East river crossings and $3 on the other bridges and tunnels through the city.

Mr. Todd asked for clarity between the discrepancy of pricing for those with EZ Pass and those without. He stated that the fee is $5.54 with EZ pass, but $8 by mail. Mr. Witherwax stated that a photo of the license plate will be taken and a bill will be sent to owner of the vehicle. The goal is to not slow things down with the addition of toll plazas. Another goal is to try to keep the trucks at the points of infrastructure that can handle them (e.g., commercial roadways and highways) rather than residential streets.

Dr. Monderson stated that he does not want to be lulled into a situation where the toll is set low but in a few years the toll will be high. Mr. Johnathan Matz from Move NY stated that a ratio locking device was put in the plan for the bridges and tunnels. The plan is incentivizing people to take public transportation. The ratio is locked in by writing into the bond language that the ratio would come down to 55% of what it would cost for the East river crossings. You would consequently only be able to raise one while simultaneously raising the others.

Mr. Bunkedekko queried how the plan would go about giving control of the city owned East river crossings to the state. He also stated that some of the bridges seem like they would cost a lot more to maintain and asked if that could be a contributing factor to why the toll is so high. He was informed that it does not cost as much to maintain as is charged on some of the bridges cited, such as the Verrazzano. As an answer to his first question, the City would lease the bridges to the state.

A resident asked, considering the amount of money that is supposed to be raised, what direct effect the plan would have on the fares of public transportation. She was informed that the Move NY Fair Plan is hoping that the plan would pass in this current legislative session, and backers of the plan would use the
interim period to boost transit options. The result would be fares raised much less often and less dramatically. However, fares will not decrease from their existing levels.

Mr. Witherwax announced that the plan will be presented entirely on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6 PM at the 78th Precinct at 65 6th Avenue. He urged those that are skeptical or that have questions to attend. He also reminded everyone that tonight’s vote is only proposing to lend the Board’s voice to the goals and mission of the Move NY Fair plan.

Dr. Monderson made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to send a letter to the elected officials asking them to review and consider the plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried with a final vote of 20 in favor, 12, opposed, with 2 abstentions.

**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, school guidance counselors and psychologists, Narcotics Anonymous meeting places, tenant & block associations, within apartment buildings, and block parties. 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. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and stated that as per our By-Laws, we must hold elections for the officers of the Board this year. She announced the nominating committee, which includes Kim Albert, who will serve as Chairperson, along with Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Ms. Stacey Sheffey, Mr. Wayne Bailey, and Mr. Robert Matthews. Elections will be held in May. She then opened the floor for public comments.

**Public Comments**

**Mr. Leroy Reid** made reference to the playground at Calvary Community Church. He expressed that the playground should be accessible to all members of the community.

**Mr. Desmond Atkins** urged community residents to take notice of the worsening conditions of St. John’s Recreation Center. They are understaffed, the employees are overworked and the center is underfunded. Resources such as this are an asset to our community.

**Mr. Rusty Zimmerman**, Portrait Artist to Governor Cuomo, announced that he will be giving free portraits to residents of Crown Heights, Brooklyn for one year to create a portrait of the place through the people. Zimmerman will paint 175 residents from June 2015 to May 2016, and will work with local galleries to display the work as it emerges, show the entire collection in 2016, and give the paintings to their subjects for free. As a community arts initiative, the project will be crowd-funded with a
Kickstarter campaign launching on April 15th, with a goal of $48,000 to fund the work for an entire year. To participate and for additional information, visit www.rustyzimmerman.com

**Geoffrey Davis, District Leader of the 43rd Assembly District**

District Leader Geoffrey Davis who is also the President of the James E. Davis Stop the Violence Foundation encouraged the community residents to participate in the upcoming special elections which will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 where he will be running for the 43rd Assembly District seat left vacant by former Assemblyman Karim Camara. To be eligible to vote on May 5, 2015, voters must be registered by Apr 25, 2015.

**Ms. Deborah Young**, Crown Heights North Association announced their Annual Town Hall Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum. The theme this year is “Sustaining Hopeful Communities”. Flyers will be distributed at the next community board meeting. For additional information, please contact 718-774-3834.

**Ms. Lauren Katz**, Kipp Academy, (a public charter school located in the same building as M.S. 390) announced that registration is open to parents who want to enroll their children in school this coming September. Applications are due by April 1, 2015. One of Kipp’s goals is to partner with members of the community so that they will become more active with their schools. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at Clara Barton High School at 2PM for parents interested in enrolling their children in Kipp Academy.

Ms. Albritton asked Ms. Katz to clarify what a public charter school is. She responded that it is a charter school which is funded by and run solely on public funding. Public charters are held to the same accountability measures as any other public school with the exception that charter schools set their own hours and curriculum etc. Ms. Wedderburn asked what programs does Kipp offer. Ms. Katz stated that they provide afterschool programs for youth along with a variety of other services. For additional information, log on to www.kippnyc.org.

**Shirley Patterson, District Leader of the 43rd Assembly District**

District Leader Shirley Patterson announced that she will be running for the 43rd Assembly District seat. She mentioned that on March 23, 2015 there will be a college fair at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights located at 450 Eastern Parkway from 12-4PM. They will be giving away scholarships. All are invited to attend.

**Coalition for Educational Justice** – Ms. Claudette Agard

Ms. Agard stated that the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ) is organizing a parent-led movement for educational equity and excellence in the city’s public schools. They are a citywide collaborative of community-based organizations and unions whose members are parents, community residents, and teachers. Together, they are fighting to ensure that every child in NYC receives a quality and well-rounded education.

Education is a critical lever for social and economic equity in our society. The opportunity to receive an excellent education is not distributed equally across neighborhoods, and far too many children are stuck in failing schools that do not prepare them for college and the world of work. For example, only half of
the Black and Latino students in NYC graduate from high school in four years and only one in six NYC black and Latino students are reading and writing at state standards.

Ms. Agard met with the Education Committee in January where they discussed community schools and renewal schools and how the community board can take part in them. Community Board 8 covers community school districts 13, 16, and 17 in which several community schools and renewal schools currently reside. Some of the criteria used for these schools are based on attendance, intervention, dropout, and performance.

Mr. Staton asked how many of their schools are scheduled for charter. At the moment funds are being raised for capital so an amount is not set in stone yet. Ms. Agard responded that the Mayor has put some charter schools on hold but the Governor said that they had to supply the space. Schools that are currently underutilized will have to co-locate. With the initiative of community schools, 128 schools have been converted with the largest amount of them residing in the Bronx.

After a few additional questions, Ms Agard thanked the Education Committee for the invite and stated that she looks forward to working with them.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Agard for the information and asked for a report from the following elected official’s representatives:

**Brooklyn Borough President’s Office** – Ms. Kathleen Daniel, External Affairs

Ms. Daniel thanked everyone who participated in the recent historic march that took place across the Brooklyn Bridge. Over 600 strong marchers walked in solidarity with the 50th Anniversary of the March in Selma, Alabama.

Following the March, Borough President Adams hosted a watch party at Borough Hall. Marchers had an opportunity to watch President Obama and others give remarks about that historic event that took place on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965.

She reminded us that they marched to ensure that African Americans could exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Ms. Daniel announced that on February 5, 2015 Borough President Adams announced his initiatives which include the increase in accessibility for seniors and the disabled, the use of technology to decrease gun-violence by using methods such as installing microchips in pistols and other weaponry.

On Monday, March 30, 2015 the Borough President will be hosting a Women’s History Month Expo at 5PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The expo will feature women-owned businesses and honor those that have served their communities. Lastly, Ms. Daniel thanked all the members who submitted their reappointment application for community board membership and the residents who applied for the first time. If you have any further questions, please reach out to her at 718-802-3771.

**Councilwoman Darlene Mealy’s Office** – Ms. Arna Lipkind

Ms. Lipkind announced that Councilwoman Mealy will be hosting a Women’s History event on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum in celebration of women and diversity. They will honor women’s organizations and commend them for their work in diversity. She
also announced that on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Van Dyke Community Center the Greg Jocko Jackson Film Initiative will feature an empowering film highlighting women and girls in honor of Women’s History Month. Councilwoman Mealy’s office is also offering free tax preparation services on Saturday March 14, 2015 at St. John’s Bread & Life. For more information contact 718-953-3097.

**Senator Jesse Hamilton’s Office** – Mr. Jarvis Houston

Mr. Houston announced that Senator Hamilton is introducing a new program called “Each One Teach One” where mentors will speak to students about their community leaders in hopes that they can obtain a plethora of knowledge about their communities. The Senator will have a Mobile Office at various public libraries in the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Sunset Park, and Brownsville to alert people about programs like SNAP, job opportunities, etc. Senator Hamilton is introducing the 20th Senatorial District Advisory Committee and a few other committees that need community participation. Lastly, Mr. Houston announced that on Friday, March 27, 2015 the Senator will host his “Women of Excellence” event in honor of Women’s History Month at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights located at 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. For more information, please call the office at 718-284-4700 or his cell phone at 347-770-5054.

**Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo’s Office** – Ms. Kristia Beaubrun

Ms. Beaubrun mentioned that there will be a Women’s History Celebration on Friday, March 27, 2015 at City Hall at 5PM where 20 exceptional women will be honored. The Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications and that Pre-Kindergarten enrollment starts on March 15th, 2015. Also, Housing and Legal Services had resumed at their office every 2nd Thursday of the month from 1-4PM so residents can schedule their appointments. The Councilwoman sends her thanks to those who braved the snowstorm to come out to her State of the District Address on March 1, 2015. For more information, please contact 718-260-9191.

**Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s Office** - Mr. Charles Jackson

Mr. Jackson mentioned that the deadline to sign up for the Affordable Care Act is April 30, 2015. The Congresswoman is offering Tax Preparation Services in two locations: 22 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY on Friday and Saturday from 10:30AM to 3:30PM & 1401 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY on Sunday from 10AM to 5PM. Tax preparation is free for individuals with an annual income of $30,000 or less and family households of $70,000 or less.

He distributed a fact sheet on President Obama’s Administrative Relief that will protect up to five million people from deportation and allow many to work lawfully. For more information, please call 718-287-1142.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7 PM at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church located at 856 Pacific Street (near Vanderbilt Avenue). All are invited to attend.
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<td>James Sykes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Christopher</td>
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