June 12, 2014

**Members Present**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
Adam Bunkeddeko  
Dian Duke  
Phu Duong  
James Ellis  
Ede Fox  
Nizjoni Granville  
Curtis Harris  
Philip Hawkins  
Jamell Henderson  
Xeexrema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Tarves Lord  
Robert Matthews  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Mary Reed  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Sheryl Vassell  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Rohon Williams  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young  
Vilma Zuniga

**Members Absent/Excused**

Princess Benn-James  
Helen Coley  
Diana Foster  
Fred Frazier  
Priscilla Maddox  
Alton Pierce  
Robert Puca  
Audrey Tait-Hall  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Greg Yerman

**Elected Officials**

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy

**Elected Official Representatives**

Cory Provost, NYC Comptroller  
Nora Daniel, Councilwoman Mealy  
Drew Gabriel, Councilwoman Cumbo  
Dynishel Gross, Councilman Cornegy  
Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery  
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke  
Stefan Ringel, Borough President Adams

**Liaisons**

Jill Maxwell, Dept. Consumer Affairs  
Karen Crawford, KCDA’s Office

**CB8 Staff**

Michelle George  
Melanie Grant  
Julia Neale
The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Granville, Chairperson.

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 welcome from Concern for Independent Living (CIL).

Concern for Independent Living – Mr. Jim Mutton, Director of NYC Operations for Concern for Independent Living

Mr. Mutton stated that he began with CIL in February. CIL is working on a number of projects around the city, including one at 1515 Bergen Street, a 90 unit building with 35 affordable units. He stated that CIL hopes to start screening applicants by the end of the year or the beginning of 2015. If you have any questions regarding the project, please call and ask.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Mutton and stated that CIL has been a great addition to the community and wished them luck in their endeavors. She then welcomed the new Community Board members and asked each to say a few words regarding their interest in joining the Board.

Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon stated that she lives in central Crown Heights and has an interest primarily in economic development, housing, and education. Mr. Phil Hawkins stated that he too, lives in central Crown Heights and has an interest in children. Mr. Rohon Williams lives in Prospect Heights and has an interest in sanitation, transportation, and youth. Mr. Gib Veconi, also from Prospect Heights, stated that his interests are SLA applications and housing issues. Mr. Jamell Henderson lives on the eastern end of Crown Heights and has an interest in youth. Finally, Ms. Sheryl Vassell from Crown Heights, states that her interests are children, transportation, and housing.

Ms. Granville informed the six new members that there will be a mandatory orientation meeting held later in the summer, prior to the September general meeting. She also encouraged members to interact outside of the CB meetings and committee meetings, stating that we could function better if our members know each other. In addition, Ms. Granville welcomed the new District office staff member, Ms. Melanie Grant, Community Assistant. Finally, she asked members to support committee events, citing a number of events hosted that were not well attended by members. Committees put a lot of effort in their work and need other members to show support. It reflects poorly on the Board when members do not go to CB8 sanctioned events.

In another update, Ms. Granville implored block association presidents to keep their information current and up to date with the District office so that the association and its members can be notified of projects within the confines of CB 8 that will affect them. She stated that 50 members cannot fully speak for the over 96,000 residents of CB8 and that community participation is imperative. Please let the Board know who block association presidents are so that the board can keep you updated on things going on in the community.

Dept. of Consumer Affairs – Ms. Jill Maxwell

Ms. Maxwell informed the Board that Consumer Affairs (DCA) is the city agency charged with enforcing the City’s new paid sick leave law. More information on the law can be obtained by
calling 311 or visiting nyc.gov. Under the rights of the law, employees have the right to accrue sick leave to go to medical appointments or to care for family members. DCA uses family member very broadly so that it includes siblings, children, grandchildren, spouses, domestic partners, etc.

Businesses with 5 or more employees must provide paid leave. Businesses with fewer than 5 must provide leave, but it does not have to be paid leave. Domestic workers that have worked for their employers for at least a year for 80 hours or more on the year, must get 2 paid leave days a year. Union employees have different laws as well. A person covered by a union contract as of April 1st when the law went into effect, will not begin accruing sick leave until the contract ends. The only exception to that rule is if you are in the construction or retail industry; in those cases, you must get comparable coverage immediately. If you have not received paperwork regarding the law from your employer, call 311 and file a complaint, as legally, all employers must provide the sick leave information.

Employees that work more than 80 hours in a 12 consecutive month period, must accrue 1 hour of sick leave per every 30 hours they work. If you do not use all of your time in a calendar year, it must carry over to the next calendar year for use immediately. If you are eligible for paid leave, you must get your regular pay. Employers can ask for medical documentation for a certain amount of time used. In some cases, they can also require 7 day advance notification for foreseeable circumstances, such as surgery.

If you feel as though your rights have been violated under the law, you can file a complaint with DCA or thru 311. You have 2 years to file a complaint, and there are laws that prohibit employers from retaliating against use of the new sick leave law.

Dr. Monderson asked if the time accrual carryover is permitted for multiple years or only one. She informed him that it is permitted for multiple years, but only 40 hours carry over from year to year.

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

**Aging/Health and Human Services** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah

The Aging/Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, June 2, 2104, at CNR. Present were Kwasi Mensah and Dr. Flize Bryan. The committee reviewed and discussed its focus and objectives moving forward. The following is what the committee is resolved towards:

- Directly and indirectly, addressing with a sense of urgency, the disproportionate levels of ailments that affect black people, including diabetes, high-blood pressure, heart disease and obesity.
- The intention to invite guest-speakers to our committee meetings. The District Office has been very supportive in this process, and will post agendas on its website when speakers are confirmed.
- Follow-up on the ongoing plans to close hospitals in the community, and if necessary, partnering with other Community Boards to foster the action necessary, to save these institutions.
- Sponsor annually, health-themed, public events; fairs, lectures, symposiums, inviting experts from a cross-section of modalities, from the conventional/allopathic to the
alternative. The role of proper and transformative nutrition will be a key aspect through all of this.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2014, at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

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

In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Renaye Cuyler, member of the Board of Directors for Catalyst Network Foundation, gave a progress report on the group. Ms. Cuyler stated that there are 70 students in the program that attend summer workshop. 26 will attend the summer workshop at St. Francis College this summer from 6 high schools in Central Brooklyn. As part of the program, participants will go on corporate field trips, learn resume writing tips, etc. This is the third year of the summer program and several former fellows have gone on to attend 4 year colleges. Catalyst continues to need brain power and money to keep the program going, and it especially needs help with the veterans component.

Mr. Laurel Djoukeng, Executive Director of Catalyst, announced a fundraiser project in September. He stated that the 1st Annual Catalyst Classic event, a community charity event with the goal of bringing together the community along with small businesses, is scheduled. Flyers will be submitted as soon as all details are finalized. He proudly reported that the Brooklyn Nets donated $3000 to the organization. However, the goal is to raise $40,000.

Meetings for the Career Building Committee will resume as soon as Ms. Maddox recovers fully. Please call the District office to confirm if a meeting will be held.

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

Ms. Oton made a plea for membership, and stated that in order to join the Economic Development Committee, you must be willing to work. Next year, the committee will continue its economic forum and will partner with Community Boards 3 and 9 on a shop local program. If you’re interested in participating, please engage businesses in community.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

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

Mr. Mensah announced that the committee is discussing the contentious issue of the admissions process to elite high schools in the city and the declining admissions of black students. Some cultures take these tests very seriously and do tutoring sessions on weekends. Something similar is needed for black youth.

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 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 next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR 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, June 5, 2014 at CNR. Present were Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Lee Ann Banks, Dian Duke, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Curtis Harris, Adelaide Miller, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Vilma Zuniga, Richard Goldstein, Dale Degale, Andrew Morgan, and Vivian Buens.

The committee discussed the following:


1372 Dean St. between Brooklyn and Kingston Aves is a Romanesque Revival style three-story building designed by Allen & Kenway built c. 1888 featuring a round corner tower crowned by a slate-shingle-covered conical roof, a brick façade with brownstone sillcourses and beltcourses, and gabled dormer. Richard Goodstein, RA of nC2 Architecture LLC, presented the original version of this application on March 6, 2014 and returned in response to a DOB requirement to add a second means of egress to this project - a fire escape. The revised plan also reduces the roof bulkhead originally sized for storage.

The new owner is converting the building from five units to four, and plans to add rear decks to provide outdoor space for each condo. The required exhausts have also been reduced in size and will be positioned on the party wall side of the semi-attached building. The rooftop HVAC equipment and compressors will be minimally visible from the street. The rear extension will be expanded from partial width of the building to full width and will remain at one story.

The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter acknowledging the original application. A hearing on this application will be scheduled at LPC. The committee voted 11 in favor with none against and no abstentions to support the application and hopes that the full Board will do the same. Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Tyus. It carried with a final vote of 36 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The committee also discussed the Mayor’s Five Borough, 10 Year Housing Plan. Ms. Kicy Motley, Brooklyn Borough Director of the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, attended to discuss community input into realizing the Mayor’s Five Borough, 10 Year Housing Plan. The Plan aims to create 200,000 units of affordable housing through preserving currently affordable units and constructing new ones. A few of the techniques used will be: increased penalties for poor maintenance and tenant harassment, revising the rent regulations to prevent deregulation, making inclusionary zoning mandatory, providing construction jobs, and increasing Section 8 protections for landlords. The committee was concerned with: achieving 100% affordability (Albritton), how areas would be selected for upzoning to provide the requisite density, energy efficiency and avoiding offering more subsidies to wealthy developers (Puca), timely notice to community of upzonings (Veconi), whether enough emphasis would be placed on home ownership as opposed to renting (Todd), planning for open spaces /quality of life (Duong), and whether there is an adequate supply of journeymen to timely create/rehabilitate the number of housing units required (Atkins). One proposal was to offer personal income tax credits to master construction tradespeople to work for NFPs creating affordable housing as an incentive to timely focus the necessary resources on this effort (Tyus).

Additionally, an update was given on the M1-1 Zone Subcommittee. The M1-1 Zone subcommittee is scheduled meet 6/23/14 at 6:30 p at CNR to begin 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 CHNA meeting will be Wed 6/18, 6:45 pm at St Gregory’s Church, St Johns Pl at Brooklyn Ave. The Mayor’s Vision Zero program will be discussed.

The next regularly scheduled Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 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

Ms. Andrews announced that St. John’s Park is undergoing minor renovations to spruce it up. Also, the Parks Committee held its Awareness day recently, during which 20 new people signed up to become members of Friends of St. John’s. If you are interested in joining the group, email thefriendsofstjohns@gmail.com to sign up.

Ms. Andrews announced that the pool at the recreation center will be closed for two weeks for repairs and that the construction for the St. John’s Park comfort station has been delayed for a year. On October 18, there will be a clean-up day at St. John’s Recreation Center and gardening work will be performed in the park. Finally, Summer Stage is coming to Brower Park this summer, with puppet shows on July 11, 18, and 25th at 10:30 AM.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, one week after its regular scheduled day due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting will be held at 6 PM at 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

Ms. Langhorne announced that the last meeting before the summer break will be held on Monday, June 16th at 6 pm at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. She announced that in the fall, the committee will work on a public safety forum, tentatively scheduled for October. Members of the committee will be conducting surveys throughout the summer and she encouraged residents to please fill one out if approached. She stated that the best way for the NYPD to improve is with public input.

Ms. Langhorne publicly acknowledged and thanked all committee members for their participation on the committee. She stated that she started the year alternating meetings between 77th and 78th precinct, but had low participation at 78th. She encouraged everyone to please come to the meetings regardless of location/precinct because the issues do not change just because the venue does.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**SLA & Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)**

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, June 2, 2014 at CNR. The committee voted unanimously to support the renewal license (full liquor license) application for Pequenas Restaurant located at 601 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner of Bergen Street). Please note that the renewal license extends to the recently approved sidewalk café application. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.
Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Lord. It carried with a final tally of 34 in favor, 1 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

In addition, at the May 2014 meeting, the committee entertained a lengthy presentation by the proprietors of Global Square, an establishment seeking a full liquor license located at 893/897 Dean Street (between Classon and Grand). The proprietors did not have sufficient information at the May meeting and were invited to the June meeting to provide clarity, but failed to attend. Too many questions remain for the committee to support the project at this time. However, please note that the establishment has a unique feature and theme, as it would a performance space with 3 different venues in one area: an artist gallery, and 2 live performance spaces. A concept such as this deserves consideration. Unfortunately, considering the dearth of information, it is not within our best interest to provide support until we have complete clarity. We hope the full Board will ratify our rejection of the liquor license application to strengthen our appeal to the SLA, so that they may deny the application until our concerns have been placated.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to support the complete denial of the application. Ms. Banks seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with 38 members present.

Mr. Ellis reminded members and residents that the SLAC committee meets during the summer on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 to entertain liquor license applications. Anyone interested in learning more should attend the meetings. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue.

**Transportation**

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at CNR. Present were Phu Duong, Nizjoni Granville, Xerxeema Jordan, Chris McNally, Fred Monderson, Constance Nugent-Miller, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Jacqueline Wells, and Robert Witherwax. The committee heard a presentation by representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation on the proposed enhancements to improve traffic flow along Franklin Avenue. Details of the proposal include:

a. Improving signal timing to promote smooth traffic flow with 60 second light cycles (40 for Franklin, 20 for cross streets)
b. Upgrade lane configuration by creating one moving lane from Pacific Street to St. John’s Place, two parking lanes, and a painted bike lane
c. Installation of concrete pedestrian islands on Atlantic Avenue with the elimination of the left turn signal at the westbound intersection of Atlantic and Franklin
d. Curbside Management solutions: 4 zones of One Hour non-metered parking, M-Sat 8AM-7PM

The committee expressed concerns over the one hour parking limit on Franklin Avenue, especially as it relates to residents on the corridor. Other questions and comments focused on countdown clocks at the larger intersections; clearly marked bike lanes and enforcement; the impact of the reduced car capacity on Franklin on other southbound blocks such as Grand, Nostrand, and Brooklyn Avenues; commercial loading zones; and the completion time for the project. DOT was able to respond to all questions and comments acceptably, and the committee voted 9 in favor, 1 opposed to support the Franklin Avenue Safety Plan from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway with the exception of the one hour parking regulations.

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to support the plan with the consideration of removing the one-hour parking restriction.
Mr. Henderson stated that he is concerned with the one lane between Pacific Street and St. John’s Place and asked how it could be more effective than the current two travel lanes. Mr. Witherwax informed him that the number of cars on the roadway is not the cause of the back-up along the strip; it is more the signal timing that causes the backup. The irony of the proposal is that you can put more cars thru Franklin Avenue with one lane and longer lights than 2 lanes and shorter lights.

Mr. Harris stated that a lot of commercial businesses receive deliveries on Franklin and asked how the congestion would be handled with only one lane. He was informed that commercial loading zones were not brought up during the presentation. However, despite that, Franklin Avenue could be safer without the cars having to dodge each other. Furthermore, Mr. Witherwax stated, the street is still the same width, so it is not losing space. There will be one moving lane with room to move around double parked vehicles, thus avoiding the disruption of major traffic flow. A common idea to consider is New York Avenue, with the one very wide travel lane and the two parking lanes. The same concept applies here.

Dr. Monderson added that traffic will flow based on time, number of cars, etc. Even though there are two lanes, often times many cars ride in the middle of the two lanes, making it a one lane roadway anyway. The most important concern is the elimination of the left turn at Franklin Avenue, as cars will now have to turn at Brooklyn Avenue or Grand Avenue because there are no turns allowed at Nostrand Avenue. Mr. Witherwax reminded him that that particular point is not a concern until next year due to capital plans on Atlantic Avenue. DOT will be able to make the determination if that left turn ban is necessary between now and then. He added that the main concern regarding the elimination of the turning lane was to protect pedestrians. The volume of traffic at the turn is extremely small, with 150 cars turning. Eliminating the turn will give DOT more space to build an island for pedestrians to wait if they get stranded while crossing the 100 foot street. Also, we must keep in mind that while the turn bay will be eliminated, there is still the potential that cars can still turn at the intersection, just that they will not have a designated turning lane.

Still harping on the left turn ban, Ms. Oton stated that Franklin is a commercial strip, and the trucks making deliveries will have to turn there from Atlantic Avenue. We should want to discourage the traffic from having to turn onto Brooklyn Avenue. Furthering Ms. Oton’s statement, Mr. Atkins noted that eliminating that turn creates a donut and cuts people off from their homes and destinations and takes them out of their way, thus increasing carbon emissions.

Nick Carey, the DOT project manager for the project, stated that the piece of the project at the core of contention is going to be beneficial for everyone. Pedestrian safety is the biggest reason for banning the turn. By banning the turn, DOT can redistribute the green time approaching Franklin Avenue and create a net benefit for pedestrian safety. It is a minor inconvenience for a few vehicles (80 during evening rush) but a greater net benefit.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to support the Franklin Avenue safety plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Banks and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 14 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR. The committee will discuss various Bike Corral locations proposed for Prospect Heights. All are encouraged to attend.
Youth/Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth/Family Services committee met on June 4, 2014 at CNR. Present were Angeli Rasbury, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Princess Benn-James, Robert Matthews, and Akosua Albritton. Duke Reid of St. John’s Community Labor and David Ford of Phoenix House were guests.

The objectives of the meeting were 1) to learn more about the K-2 epidemic and 2) develop language for the Youth & Family Services section of the Annual District Needs Statement. Mr. Ford and Mr. Reid attended this meeting in their concern about K-2. David Ford is the Business Development Manager at Phoenix House in Long Island City. He explained a key ingredient in K-2 is formaldehyde. He noted that many people that are institutionalized (i.e., in prison or in homeless shelters) use K-2. The commercial success of K-2 led to the resurgence of smoke shops. Other substance abuse trends Ford discussed included the mixing of codeine with Arizona beverages. This drink goes by the street names “Scizzlean”, “Lean”, “Scizzurp”. He also explained that opiates, such as heroin, were the drugs of choice in New York’s suburbs. Ford suggested that as more suburbanites move into Brooklyn, there is a high probability of finding these opiates on the streets to meet market demand.

The committee will continue its discussions on the problematic items and come up with ways to stem their infiltration in youth hands. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and stated that a By-Laws committee has been formed and will meet over the summer. Any member with a concern regarding an omission from the By-Laws should send their concerns to the District office. Also, Ms. Granville announced that the Board is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Michelle George working at the District office. She thanked her for her diligence and hard work over the years and her unfailing ability to assist residents in time of need.

She then asked Councilwoman Mealy to say a few words.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy

Councilwoman Mealy announced that she is the only council person with 6 CBs, 6 community councils, 3 PSA’s, etc. She thanked the members and the board for assisting her in her duties as Councilperson, stating that it is very important for the community to get involved.

It is necessary to keep beneficial programs coming into the community like adult literacy and GED programs. Kids need to be given alternatives to see what they are interested in because not everyone is going to be a doctor or lawyer. They need to see that blue collar jobs such as construction, mechanic, bus drivers, etc., are just as good and necessary. She also reminded everyone of her monthly advisory board meetings, which are held so that people can express what is not being done and what needs to be done in the community.

Ms. Granville thanked the Councilwoman for her words and opened the floor for public comments.
Mr. Jim Vogel from Senator Montgomery’s office brought everyone’s attention to a recent article in the Daily Eagle requiring all emergency personnel carry anti-opiate pills in case of emergency. Also, the Senate has 5 bills that might pass. The Zip Code Bill just passed, which requires that the state publish where money goes by zip codes. NYC has been doing this for many decades. The Prison Visitation Bill requires that prison system maintain an easily accessible website so people can learn visitation dates and time and requirements for inmates to prevent them from wasting time and resources going to visit loved ones only to find out that they are unable to see them.

Ms. Dynishal Gross from Councilman Cornegy’s office informed the Board that an important milestone at Council was reached: the Councilman brought a bill before the Education Committee requiring audible alarms be installed by the Dept. of Education on all emergency doors of schools with children of special needs. The bill is about to pass.

Ms. Mahayana Landowne from Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide Program (SPARC), announced the “Elder United Nations” event called “If I Ruled the World,” where seniors choose a country and pretend to be a world leader. Seniors will sit on a panel and answer questions in a roundtable fashion about what they would do in certain situations.

The luncheon event will be held on Friday, June 20, 2014 from 12:30 to 3 PM at Albany Senior Center located at 196 Albany Avenue. RSVP by calling 718-773-260.

Mr. Robert Hunter, advisory board member at Interfaith Hospital, announced that Interfaith is out of bankruptcy. He asked people to encourage the men in their lives to go to the doctor as prostate checks are very important. Any man 40 or older should get their prostate checked as 1 in 3 men will test positive for prostate cancer.

Mr. Charles Jackson from Congresswoman Clarke’s office wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day. He stated that the Congresswoman has been focusing on local issues and recently met with HUD and HPD over the downsizing issue with Section 8. He informed people that they do not have to downsize right away, or at least not until an apartment is available in their current building. If they have a doctor’s note that ties their disability to their household size, they cannot get downsized.

He relayed the Congresswoman’s concern about Mayor’s deBlasio’s plan for affordable housing because central Brooklyn might not be able to support all of it. He stated that the Congresswoman supports contextual housing instead of towers in neighborhoods that are small row houses or 2 or 3 family homes.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and also wished all the fathers a Happy Father’s Day and everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer. She then adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.
GUESTS

Ben Altman
Leroy Reid
Rennie Brooks
Mahayana Landowne
Dorothy Bembry-guet
Shirley Mondesir
Anthony Taylor
Jill Maxwell
Jonatha Berk
Tamika Gibbs
Jim Mutton
Hazel Hurley
Renaye Cuyler
Andrew Morgan
Darlene Dorsett
Betty Davis
Halbert Hollingsworth
Charles Hickmon
Lori Boozer
Chris McNally
Gerard Miller