The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. The Chair asked the Secretary to call the roll. A quorum was present. Ms. Granville then asked for an update from Concern for Independent Living.
Concern for Independent Living – Mr. Jim Mutton, Director of NYC Operations

Mr. Mutton welcomed everyone to Concern, stating that it is a pleasure to host the Community Board. He stated that the mixed housing project at 1552 Bergen Street is opening in July or August 2016. There will be 11 one-bedroom apartments, 21 two-bedroom apartments, a live in super, and all of it will be affordable housing. Further information will be given at a later date. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Acceptance of Minutes – Dr. Monderson made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. It was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously. There were two corrections called in to the District office that will be made for the final record.

Ms. Granville welcomed Mr. Peterson Napoleon from ID NYC and asked him to say a few words about the program.

ID NYC – Mr. Peterson Napoleon, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

Mr. Napoleon reported that ID NYC is a free, useful identification card for those 14 years and older that live in New York City. The application for the card does not ask for citizen documentation. There are many benefits to the card, and one of the main benefits is a year’s free access to 33 cultural institutions and discounted movie tickets with the card. The card gives discounts to Broadway shows as well as on car rentals and hotel discounts. There is a 20% discount on YMCAs throughout the city and the card unifies all library systems regardless of borough. Before, you had to live in the particular borough to use their library system. That is no longer as you can just use the card. The ID card is very versatile and acts as a form of identification at check cashing facilities in the city as it is a legal and valid form of ID throughout the city. With it, you can also receive discounts outside the state as well. Mr. Napoleon gave discounts in Florida, Georgia, and Los Angeles as examples. Overall, the purpose of the card is to ensure that all New York City residents have a valid identification card.

Dr. Monderson asked if the card has to be renewed and what the expiration of benefits at the cultural institutions is. He was informed that the card is valid for 5 years. The start date of the cultural institutions starts the day you activate the benefit and is good for one year.

Mr. Staton asked if you can get the card online. He was informed that appointments can be made online for different locations throughout the city to get the ID. Mr. Napoleon stated that he would schedule your appointment tonight, call 311 for the nearest location, or make an appointment online.

Ms. Tannenbaum asked what the fee for the card is after December 31st. She was told that the card is free indefinitely.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Napoleon for the information and encouraged everyone to sign up for ID NYC and take advantage of the benefits. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

Housing/ULURP – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair; Ms. Ethel Tyus, Vice Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Wayne Bailey, Michael Cox, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Liz Grefrath, Xeerxeema
The committee discussed the following items:

1. Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness: Rear Yard Addition to 1205 Bergen St. – Crown Heights North Historic District Phase I

Star Davis, owner/Engineer and Lighting Designer, and Ed May, Project Designer, provided a second presentation of a plan to construct a rear yard addition to the property, the bottom duplex of which will be Davis’ primary residence. The initial presentation was made at the August 2015 Housing/ULURP Committee meeting. The building is a four-story Romanesque Revival rowhouse designed and built c. 1888 by Joseph C. Gateley.

The work proposed involves the removal of the entire width of the building’s rear façade including the half lot width bathroom at the basement level and existing deck at the first floor level. The proposed addition was presented as ‘being no deeper than other existing rear yard additions on the block,’ and ‘being among the rear yard additions on almost every building.’ [A close examination of the building footprint map on page 9 of the materials provided by Ms. Davis does not support that assertion. Of the 37 buildings with rear additions, only seven have two stories. The 21 others are only one-story.] The issue of preserving green space and setting precedents was discussed at length.

The project will replace the existing 8’10” one-story half-width extension with a 10’4” two-story full-width extension with a new roof deck. The deck railing will be brown or black welded steel. The material for the exterior will be concrete stucco. The existing metal stair will be removed. The ground floor and first floor windows will be replaced with glass doors. The fourth floor double-hung replacement windows will use the existing window openings. The new addition will not be visible from the street. Proposed lot coverage will be 51% of a permitted 60%. The front stoop will be repaired. Construction is estimated to take six to eight months. None of the five neighbors notified appeared. A representative for 1203 Bergen St. attended the August meeting.

Ms. Davis advised that while LPC has visited the site, a hearing date for this project has not been set. The Dept. of Buildings (DOB) disapproved the project on 10/26/15.

A motion to support the application was made by Robert Puca and seconded by Wayne Bailey. Ms. Oratowski pointed out that an added second story will be quite visible compared to the ground floor extensions that are generally obscured by fencing. She offered an amendment as a condition to encourage a more aesthetically pleasing design and material by using soldiered bricks on the extension instead of stucco.

With the noted condition for a more aesthetically pleasing design and material by using soldiered bricks on the extension instead of stucco, the Committee voted 18 in favor, with one against and no abstentions to recommend that LPC approve the project.

Ms. Princess James asked the architect to elaborate on why the project was disapproved by the Dept. of Buildings (DOB). Mr. May stated they did not have all the necessary paperwork needed. They are currently waiting for a new appointment with DOB, which will be February 3, 2016.
Mr. Witherwax stated that of the 27 buildings with rear additions, only 7 are 2 story. He asked how many buildings are on the block and was told there are 50.

Ms. Wedderburn stated that the owner is increasing the footprint to 51% lot coverage. She asked what the percentage of lot coverage for the other buildings were. She was told that that information is unknown, but the allotted amount is 60%.

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

In other committee news, Ms. Tyus announced Ms. Inna Branzburg, the urban planning Fellow granted to CB 8 by the Fund for the City of NY to work on the MCROWN Rezoning study for a small portion of the M1 district and to review the effect of National Register listing and locally designated as historic districts on abutting or interstitial areas that are not listed or designated, was introduced to the Committee.

Issues with the legality of the shared living space business model being used at Common, 1162 Pacific Steet, was briefly discussed. Ms. George, District Manager has asked DOB to investigate and advise the Board of their results.

Ms. Tyus also announced that the CHNA Annual Holiday Meeting will be on December 16, 2015 at St. Gregory’s Roman Catholic Church located 991 St. John’s Place, corner of Brooklyn Avenue at 6:45 PM. She invited everyone to please join to celebrate the season.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, December 7, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Takako Kono, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Delissa Reynolds, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Sheryl Vassell, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, Greg Yerman, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following applications:

### 1. Renewals:
- a. Woodwork, 583 Vanderbilt Avenue (Full)
- b. Weatherup, 589 Vanderbilt Avenue (Full)

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

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witherwax and carried with a final vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.
2. The committee also voted to withhold support for the renewal application for Siempre Amigos, 629 Franklin Avenue (Full) because the proprietor failed to attend the hearing and he also failed to submit the information form.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to deny the renewal license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mensah and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

3. New applications:

a. **Omsutip, 622 Washington Avenue (Beer/Wine)**
   - Thai restaurant in former Ortine/Atlantico/King Clam Bar space
   - 33 seats at 10 tables and a bar
   - Hours of operation 12 noon to 10 PM Sun-Th and Noon to 11 PM Fri-Sat
   - Committee stipulated no rear yard service without an alteration application rear yard usage was not included in the application

The committee voted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the application in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstentions. As a point of clarity, Ms. Jian Du, representative for the proprietor, received assurance that if everything goes smoothly with the establishment, the proprietor can come back for an alteration application to use the rear yard.

b. **Soapbox Gallery, 636 Dean St (Beer/Wine)**
   - Art gallery/event space seeking permit to sell beer and wine as an accessory.
   - Max capacity 74 persons
   - Hours of Operation: 11 AM to 12 AM Sun-Wed, 1 AM Thu-Sat
   - Live music, four 400 watt speakers
   - Music/noise will end one hour before closing hours
   - Applicant currently hosts periodic events (2 or 3 times per month) and feels that the revenue generated by alcohol sales would enable him to host more.
   - Applicant presented no detailed plans as to how he will manage his business (no security measures, no patron management plans, no marketing plans, no clear number of employees). He admitted that he would make those plans when and if he has a license to sell alcohol, as necessary.
   - Applicant, a percussionist, freely admits the space will generate considerable noise, but as he is in a M-1 zone, he feels that he is permitted to do so by law.
   - Applicant, a 20 year owner of 636 Dean, presented many letters of support from local residents

Community residents had the following concerns:
   - Applicant is misinformed about the noise code.
   - Noise is too much, hours of operation too broad, and Applicant is not prepared to sell alcohol.
   - Many children on the block, conflicting with afternoon hours and late night noise.
   - Extensive petition from majority of residents on the block opposing the proposal without solid plans submitted to the committee for review
Committee Members had the following concerns:
- Lack of planning is poor indication of good stewardship of a license.
- Cabaret license needed for performances and dancing. The cabaret application will be applied for if the liquor license gets approved.
- Lack of architect, lack of Certificate of Occupancy very troubling.
- Considered a minor operational change, adding beer and wine sales to existing operations.
- Sound proofing quote was included in application. Applicant asked if he would agree to a stipulated work agreement and he stated he would.
- Not just minor operational change: many more frequent events anticipated. Even though there are few 311 complaints, Applicant only host events once or twice a month and his neighbors speak directly to him. Once more events, and once Pacific Park (Atlantic Yards project) opens, it is surmised he will have more problems.
- Staffing is a concern. One or two employees to serve alcohol and manage patrons is too few and too optimistic.

Despite these concerns and a petition from the majority of residents on the block outlining their concerns, the committee voted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, with 1 recusal to support the application with the stipulation that the soundproofing work is implemented to reduce the impact of noise on the community. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

As a point of interest, Mr. Ellis announced that the speakers will be movable as needed. He also corrected the action item to reflect that the letters of support were from local businesses, not residents.

Mr. Peter Krashes, the immediate next door neighbor and part of Dean Street Block Association (DSBA), stated that he, on behalf of the block association, submitted a letter to the committee with a petition with about 55 signatures of residents on the block. He acknowledged that it is an M1 zone, but the regulations do not vary regarding noise in an M1 zone with residents present from regular residential zones. He read some of the concerns, including the large glass door in front that allows for sound seepage. He talked about an encounter his husband had with the proprietor where he asked for some loud drumming to stop and it ended in a nasty verbal dispute. In defense of the proprietor, Mr. Krashes did acknowledge that sometimes the drumming did stop and sometimes it did not. Also, he relayed concerns of residents with complaints of their kids being kept up at night. The core piece of the concerns is a lack of confidence that the noise levels will be mitigated. To resolve that issue, he spoke to the proprietor and pleaded with him to read the input from DSBA.

Ms. Regina Kinsey questioned why the committee voted in support of this application despite all the lingering issues and why it wants the full board to support it as well when it asked the Board to deny a renewal application for a different establishment. Mr. Ellis clarified that the earlier request for non-support was because the applicant failed to appear at hearing and also failed to submit paperwork. This applicant appeared and submitted all the necessary paperwork. Ms. Kinsey continued by stating that the board is making decisions for an entire community without doing due diligence. She referenced the Eastern Parkway median project.

Mr. Veconi stated that the minutes and consequently, the action items, do not properly reflect the discussion held in committee. He stated that the concerns listed do not represent the voice of the entire committee but rather individuals on the committee. The applicant has been having performances in his space for a number of years with few complaints, and he has been totally responsive to the noise issue through this process. Everyone was on the same page as far as the noise was concerned. His sound plan
demonstrates his commitment to noise abatement. Noise abatement is stipulated as part of the license. The committee made a reasoned decision, based on this not being a nightclub, to support a beer and wine license. Applicant agreed in advance to go thru mediation if problems arise after opening.

Ms. Wedderburn stated that even though there was an agreement made, there is no formalized plan. We have no leverage after the license is granted without a formalized plan, and this would be problematic, especially in an M1 zone. Given that there was so much opposition, it is fool hardy to grant a license with outstanding issues.

Ms. Foster raised a concern about the staffing, stating that 1 to 2 people is not sufficient. She also cited no marketing plan, no clear number of employees, and no business plan presented to the committee.

Mr. Bailey noted that everyone on the committee had an opportunity to review the minutes before the action items were submitted. The accuracy of the minutes should not be called into question because of this fact. In addition, he stated that he knows the proprietor, and one of the things that has been overlooked is that it is not an existing business that is making money. If approved, there will be more performances and the proprietor stated that he wants to bring up to 74 people to the neighborhood every night to the business. The SLA allows us to exercise deference in situations like this.

Ms. Young made it clear that the owner has been giving away beer and wine all along and is merely asking for a license to sell it to make money.

Mr. Puca stated that he lives a block away, is very good friends with Peter Krashes, and knows the proprietor. He stated that he has concerns about the amount of people. The whole block is an M1 zone and any residents are living there under variances. Basically, when you live in an M1 zone there are certain things that you must expect. The proprietor came to the meeting open minded. He agreed to follow the soundproofing plan suggested to him by a paid sound engineer, and agreed to mediation if necessary. He agreed with Mr. Bailey that he should have read the minutes because they don’t reflect what was said in committee, agreeing with Mr. Veconi. He reminded everyone that it is merely a beer and wine license, which isn’t as bad as a liquor license. The committee voted unanimously for a reason.

Mr. Witherwax stated he voted yes for 2 reasons: one, it is a harmless enterprise with little chance of succeeding, and two, it is an opportunity for leverage with something that has the potential to be a greater nuisance than already exists. The sound proofing and mediation agreements is a win-win for the community because of the beer and wine license.

Mr. Ellis apologized for the misrepresentation of the minutes and stated that the committee has been proactive in trying to carefully vet applications. This is an art gallery, not a night club, not a dance hall. It is an art gallery that wants to do performances. The committee did not and does not see this to be a terribly noxious use of the space. Most of the concerns of the residents were ameliorated in committee by the proprietor as most of the concerns centered on noise pollution.

Jimmy Greenfeld, the proprietor, apologized for coming late to his vote. He stated that he is well aware that the major issue in all of this is sound. He is an Afro-Cuban drummer and have been playing there for 20 years. He stated that he had had no idea that the community was in such an uproar over the sound of the drumming in all those years as no one ever approached him about it. As a musician in New York, there is latitude to practice, and he practices only once a week. He is very generous with the space all the time and allows people to use it for free. The issue with the sound is this: he never
assumed anything other than the sound was ok since no one approached him. He explained that the space is a garage. There is no way for sound to be contained within the space at the present time. Also, with the big wooden construction wall across the street, the sound bounces back to the neighbors’ units. Until the application for the liquor license had been filed, there had never been any complaints.

Mr. Krashes asked to clarify a few things. First, he stated that there have been complaints. The nature of the business of Soapbox has changed over the years. The performances are a much more recent thing. The volume of the drumming is a more recent occurrence. He stated that on occasion he has brought the issues to Mr. Greenfeld personally rather than calling 311. There is value to what Mr. Greenfeld does. All the block association wanted was stipulations on the use and the noise. There is a misconception about the M1 zone and noise and he stated that the noise code was changed in 2007 to make all residents have more equitable noise levels.

Mr. Ellis stated that sound attenuation measures must be implemented before opening.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the application with the two stipulations of abiding by the noise attenuation measures given by the sound engineer, and also agreeing to mediation should the need arise. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

4. Sidewalk Café Renewal application for Morgan’s Elbow Room and BBQ, 267 Flatbush Avenue for 30 tables with 68 chairs. The committee voted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the sidewalk café renewal application and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next SLAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Transportation – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The Transportation Committee did not meet in the month of November and will not meet in December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Essie Spivey, Glinda Andrews, Clarine Miller, Mary Hodnett, Julia Boyd, Adelaide Miller, Gail Branch-Mohammad, Aldith Allen, and Annette Jones.

The committee discussed its goals for the year and potentially bringing more programs to the senior facility. The committee also discussed some of the various holiday parties in the area.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue (corner of Sterling Place). All are invited to attend.
Youth and Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Kwasi Mensah, Daseta Gray, Xeerxeema, Azriel Cocchini-Beck, Alli Lesovoy, Patricia Caddet, Latisha Corbett, Desmond Atkins, Carol Atkins, M. Pegye Johnson, Laurel Daymosa, and Andgie Noel.

The committee heard a presentation from Ms. Daseta Gray, founder and CEO of Sabree Education Services, located in Harlem. She is a Certified Infant/Toddler Specialist, who informed the committee that the brain develops 85% of its full capacity by age 3; therefore we cannot miss the golden opportunity to mesh this development with intellectual, physical and social enrichment, which will carry the child into their teens and beyond, during that narrow window. Ms. Gray showed some ways to help build brain power in children, the types of toys to use, and things to avoid.

The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Environment/Sanitation – Ms. Helen Coley, Chair

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Community Board 8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Helen Coley, Desmond Atkins, and Mary Hanbury.

The committee discussed the committee’s goals for the year and the ways to get the scorecard rating increased so that the district can get a reduction in alternate side parking regulations. The committee also discussed a host of sweeper complaints.

The committee will not meet in the month of December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6 PM at the Community Board 8 District Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues). All are encouraged to attend.

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: James Ellis, Diana Foster, Gregg Bishop, Mary Hanbury, Takako Kono, Chanelle Dorsett, Barbara Campbell, and Suzette Lavalle.

The committee planned the Shop Local CB8 campaign. Committee members will be doing a survey of neighborhood residents on why they shop outside of the district.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health and Human Services committee met on Monday, December 7, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed Smoke Free NYC and the Dept. of Health and
Mental Hygiene working together to make new housing developments smoke free. There are a lot of health issues related to second hand smoke. Also, the leading cause of fire related death is caused by cigarettes starting fires. The right to breathe clean air is the predominant right for all, not the rights of smokers to pollute the air.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. Ms. Andrews announced that the second scope meeting for Lincoln Terrace Park was held the night before. Councilwoman Darlene Mealy allocated $3.1 million for renovations to the playground. A design meeting will be scheduled soon.

She encouraged people to attend the Brower Park Tree Lighting ceremony which will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 5-7 PM.

The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2016 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, Vice Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, November 16, 2015 at the 77th Precinct but did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and took the confusion over the accuracy of the SLAC minutes as an opportunity to remind everyone how important it is for committee chairs to submit minutes, for members to read minutes, read email, and respond to emails that are sent. She then asked for public comments and reports from elected official representatives.

**Ms. Regina Kinsey** made a complaint about the Eastern Parkway pedestrian island project from Albany to New York Avenues. She stated that the islands will interfere with the parade route and emergency service vehicles.

Mr. Witherwax stated that the NYC Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC) has begun Phase 3 of the Nostrand Avenue Select Bus Service, Safe Routes to Schools spanning four community boards in the vicinity of the following schools: PS 59, PS 375, Oholei Torah Elementary School, and Arista Preparatory School. The project is also in conjunction with the Nostrand Avenue Wayfinding Foundations. Please note that Safe Routes to School is based on Accident Data.

The project includes neckdowns (an extension of the curb area) to shorten the length of the crosswalk and also the installation of raised median islands on Eastern Parkway to provide a refuge area for pedestrian crossing.

For Oholei Torah, the project includes a neckdown at the NE corner of Brooklyn Avenue and Eastern Parkway on the westbound service road. In addition, a raised median island will be installed on the
west side of the intersection at Eastern Parkway and Brooklyn Avenue. For Arista Prep, the project includes a raised median at Eastern Parkway and Kingston Avenue.

DDC presented on Safe Routes to School at the June 2012 Community Board meeting and the Board voted to support the project with the conditions that they make the raised median design consistent with the historic nature of Eastern Parkway and that a left turn signal be installed at the intersection of Eastern Parkway and Kingston Avenue. The issue was properly vetted in 2011 and 2012 in committee. This project with the median is about helping kids get to school safely.

Ms. Kinsey stated that she has a problem with the project being snuck through under the guise of school safety. 3 years ago, we didn’t have countdown clocks or a 25 mph speed limit. There have been no child fatalities at those intersections. Arista Preparatory school only asked for a stop light at the corner of Lincoln Place and Kingston Avenue and it was found to be unwarranted. In fact, she believes the island medians encourages people to cross against the light. The islands cut off emergency service vehicles and the parade route. She stated that she did not think any real thought was put into the project.

Mr. Witherwax countered by stating that is the problem with construction taking so long to begin after it has been approved. The community has a short memory and forgets about projects that were supported several years prior. This project received overwhelming community support as well as community board support.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Witherwax for addressing the concerns.

Ms. Renee Colleymore, former District Leader for the 57th Assembly District praised CB 8 for the fantastic job it does getting information out to the public. She in turn spreads the information wherever she goes. She suggested to Ms. Kinsey that she become a committee member and help spread the word of what is going on in the community since she freely admitted that she is on the CB 8 mailing list and receives information.

Ms. Colleymore thanked CB 8 for recognizing the hard work of the pioneering entrepreneurs and small businesses with the recent approval for a street co-naming on Washington Avenue for Gus Valhalas, late owner of Tom’s Restaurant. She stated that unfortunately, CB 2 does not share those same views. On two occasions they voted down the recommendation from their own Transportation Committee to co-name a street in honor of her father, Cecil Colleymore, who was the first African American to be able to acquire property for development in Clinton Hill. Due to his pioneering efforts in the 1970s, Clinton Hill has become prime real estate.

She stated that she has gotten support from Councilwoman Cumbo, the Borough President, and many other elected officials. Councilwoman Cumbo promised to move forward and bring the co-name request before the council in 2016. Ms. Colleymore thanked Dr. Monderson, Chair of the CB 8 Transportation Committee, for helping to bring press to the issue with his recent Op-Ed in favor of the co-naming.

Ms. Karen Crawford, liaison from the District Attorney’s office thanked the Board for its assistance in the Safe Streets and Begin Again programs. Due to the Board’s outreach efforts, over 600 people had their old tickets taken care of during Begin Again. She wished everyone a Happy holiday season. She can be reached at 718-250-4877 with any questions.
Pastor Gilford Monrose from the Borough President’s office announced a free legal clinic to fight residential displacement. He also announced that on Saturday on the steps of Borough Hall, different faith leaders will be coming together to say yes to Syrian refugees and to say no to anti Muslim speech. He can be reached at 718-755-3418 with any questions.

Ms. Tahira Moore, Brooklyn Boro Director from the Mayor’s office announced “Get Along NYC.” Recently, Mayor deBlasio announced that he is giving away 100k smoke detectors. Some of those smoke detectors will be given out in CB 8. She stated that she would work with the District office to coordinate efforts. It is a great initiative and she looks forward to getting it started here. She can be reached at 212-788-1369 with any questions.

Mr. Matthew Pitt, from Councilwoman Cumbo’s office wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. He announced the Councilwoman’s holiday toy drive, in partnership with toys for tots. Please drop off toys, old or new to 1 Hanson place until December 23rd. the collection box is located in the hallway of the office by the front door.

Regarding Participatory Budgeting, he stated that they are currently accepting ideas from the public. From now until February, the Councilwoman will meet with city agencies on the financial feasibility of the projects. For more information, call the Councilwoman’s office at 718-260-9191.

Mr. Brian McLaurin from Public Advocate Letitia James’ office announced that there was a rally in front of TD Bank at 66 Broadway this past Sunday because TD Bank has invested $300 million in Smith and Wesson guns. Also, the Public Advocate released the worst landlord list. To see the list, go to www.Worstlandlordlist.com. The list now includes information from the Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development and the Dept. of Buildings and when a landlord has taken someone to court. We can now track frivolous lawsuits through the site. For more information, call him at 212-669-4954.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for the information and for attending the meeting. She wished everyone a happy holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 9:15.

The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Regina Kinsey  
Carlos Rivere  
Dorothy Bembry-Guet  
Nomie Dyada  
Jim J. Du  
Kevin Chamber  
Jim Mutton  
Robert Wood  
Renee Colleymore  
Marta Tanenbaum  

Agnes Coy  
Charles Hickman  
Shirley Mondesir  
Mark Thurton  
Carlos Rivera  
Edison Stewart  
Linda Wilson  
Leroy Reid  
Linda Stewart  
Hazel Hurley