

**Community Board No. 8  
Marcus Garvey Nursing Home  
810 St. Marks Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11216**

**November 12, 2009**

**Members Present**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Glinda Andrews  
Edo Banach  
Viola Bing  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch Muhammad  
Teri Coaxum  
Helen Coley  
Renaye Cuyler  
Diana Foster  
Ede Fox  
Holly Fuchs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Princess James  
Xeexema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Shirley Lee  
Marie Louis  
Priscilla Maddox  
Robert Matthews  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Atim Oton  
Hasoni Pratts  
Mary Reed  
Marlene Saunders  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Meredith Staton  
William Suggs  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Douglas Williams  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**CB Staff Present**

Michelle George  
Valerie Hodges-Mitchell, Intern

**Members Excused**

Dr. Flize Bryan  
Jesse Hamilton  
Clarine Miller  
Robert Puca

**Members Absent**

Fred Frazier  
Doris Heriveaux  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Anyika Nance  
Tara Lai Quinlan  
David Schatzkamer  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Launa Thomas Bullock

**Elected Officials Present**

Al Vann, 36<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Letitia James, 35<sup>th</sup> Council District  
William Boyland, 55<sup>th</sup> Asm. District  
Olanike Alabi, 55<sup>th</sup> Asm. Dist. Leader

**Elected Official Reps**

Gregory Stewart, Asm. Boyland  
Carl Luciano, Councilman Vann  
Jervonne Singletary, Asm Camara  
Alfred Chiodo, Councilwoman James  
Maurice Roberts, Senator Adams  
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy  
Ron Thomas, Congresswoman Clarke  
Gail Muhammad, Congressman Towns

**Liaisons Present**

Ben Columbo, Dept. of Buildings  
Saadia Adossa, KCDA's Office

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the last Community Board meeting were accepted as written.

**Correspondence** – CB 8 newsletter and other material were distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for an official welcome from Marcus Garvey Nursing Home.

**Marcus Garvey Nursing Home** – Ms. Dorothy Hall, Administrator

Ms. Hall announced that there has been a lot of activity at the nursing home, which includes a name change. Marcus Garvey Nursing Home is now called Marcus Garvey Residential Rehab Facility. The name change is indicative of the positive new direction that the facility is heading. The facility really is seeking to work with the community and build a stronger relationship with the community. The facility is being renovated to compete with other facilities in the neighborhood. She stated that if anyone desired any additional information, they should contact the rehab facility at 718-467-7300.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Hall for her welcome and asked for a report from the following committees:

**Housing/ULURP** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. In the absence of the chair, the meeting was chaired by Ms. Ethel Tyus.

Chelsea and Ben Altman, owners of La Pequena restaurant located at 601 Vanderbilt Ave. near Bergen Street, attended in order to get community support for their installation of an external vent hood for the new gas kitchen at this facility. The prior kitchen was all electric and would not provide the traditional flavors needed for their Mexican food menu. Given that the area is now landmarked, permission is needed from the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to install the ventilation system as the hood will be visible at some point from the Street. The owners represented that they entered into the lease prior to the area being landmarked and were not given notice by the landlord that historic district designation was pending. They presented drawings and indicated that they have provided the same to LPC. The Altmans also provided a support letter from Councilmember Letitia James. They indicated that they have one neighbor to the north with two residential units, and an artist's studio to the south. On condition that the owners provide support letters from their neighbors and a support letter from LPC, a motion was made by Stacy Cheffy of Crow Hill and seconded by Diana Foster to support LPC's approval of the installation of a vent hood. The committee voted to support the application with 8 in favor and none against, with one abstention; and hopes the full board will do the same.

Ms. Oton asked how high the vent would extend, and was informed that it would extend three to five feet, and that a small sliver could possibly be seen. Ms. Desiree Hines, a tenant of 601 Vanderbilt Avenue, stated her staunch opposition to the project, stating that the owners of the restaurant attempted to put the vent through the hallway of the building. Ms. Altman stated that the ceiling in the residential hallway would have to be dropped in order to accommodate the vent. Another resident of 601 Vanderbilt asked a series of questions regarding the ductwork being up to code, especially if it will travel through the hallway of the residential space.

A suggestion came from the floor that the item be tabled until a later date; Ms. Tyus refuted the recommendation stating that at the Housing Committee instituted certain stipulations that the owners and architects obtain letters from the residents regarding the vent. Ms. Altman stated that it is extremely expensive to continue paying rent on the site without being able to use the space for the intended purpose. The meeting with Landmarks will occur prior to the next Housing Committee meeting. Ms. George suggested submitting a letter to the Landmarks Preservation Commission that the item was tabled pending the results of a meeting held between the restaurant owners and residents of the building. The item initially came before the Board regarding the exterior hood, not the internal ductwork, and therefore, would be tabled pending the results of a meeting between the tenants of 601 Vanderbilt and the owners of Pequena's on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Harnett-Robinson also attended the meeting to represent a project update for Concern for Independent Living (CFIL), a 55 unit affordable supportive housing project scheduled to develop 1465 Prospect Place at Rochester Ave., (Shelvin Hall on the former site of St. Mary's hospital). Ms. Robinson provided an update as follows:

- funds have been disbursed & the opening is expected for early 2011,
- there will be a community advisory board when the building opens,
- CFIL wishes to discuss a community garden prior to the building opening, and
- the site is secure; no one can dump trash.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Diana Foster on the details for staffing, Ms. Robinson indicated that the project will be for independent living; there will be case managers on site Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and some late nights. Residents will be: in recovery, have criminal records, and be living with mental illness. This is not a treatment program but there will be a nurse available part-time a few hours a week to check to see if residents are taking their medications. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Wayne Bailey regarding jobs for the supportive housing residents, Ms. Robinson indicated that CFIL will subsidize rents and working residents will have their rents reduced. Ms. Robinson is available for quarterly updates, with the next update to be provided in February 2010. She can be reached at AndreaHR@aol.com or (917) 968-4453.

Sandy Taggart and Julie Zuraw of the Crown Heights Revitalization Movement provided an update on the issue of the Department of Homeless Services' (DHS) intention to place an Intake Center at the Bedford-Atlantic armory. Ms. Zuraw indicated that a community advisory board is being created, and a track and field Center is being planned. She also indicated that Councilmember James has made it clear to DHS that a track and field Center is wanted by the community but not an Intake Center.

Ms. Zuraw indicated that DHS is committed to not opening an Intake Center in Brooklyn until an Intake Center is finalized in Manhattan. She also indicated that the shelter is malfunctioning because at least 2 to 3 times weekly, men are taken out by ambulance.

The committee discussed using armories in general for recreation centers instead of for housing the homeless. All attendees were in support of pressing DHS to use institutional facilities near hospitals for intake and assessment; and to use scattered site housing for shelter services conditioned on an amendment to ULURP requiring prior community review and approval. Ms. Andrea Phillips-Merriman of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Assoc. indicated that 11/6/09 was the last day to comment on City Planning's Consolidated Plan. It was agreed that a letter synopsizing the Committee's recommendations be submitted by the deadline for comments.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 6:30 PM, also at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are welcome to attend.

**Economic Development** – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair; Ms. Atim Oton, Co-Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

The committee discussed the following new liquor license applications:

1. The proprietors Koto Sushi, located at 67 ½ 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Bergen Street/Flatbush Avenue) made a favorable presentation complete with letters of support for their establishment, which is seeking a beer and wine license. Koto Sushi will operate Sunday thru Friday from 11 AM to 11 PM, and Saturdays from Noon to 11 PM. The establishment will be predominately take-out service, with limited interior seating (fewer than 30 patrons).

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the venture with a final tally of 27 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. The proprietors of The Pink Lady, LLC, 784 Washington Avenue (Sterling/St. John's Places) made a favorable presentation complete with letters of support for their establishment that will operate Monday thru Friday from 4 PM to 2 AM, Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 2 AM. There will be a max capacity of 74 persons, 45 interior, 29 exterior, and licensed security guards will be employed daily. A complete renovation of the building is underway and physical soundproofing is being installed.

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the venture with a final tally of 28 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention.

3. The proprietors of Teddy's Restaurant located at 791 Washington Avenue (St. John's/Lincoln Places) made a favorable presentation before the committee regarding their attempt to obtain a liquor license. Teddy's Restaurant has been open in the community and serving a positive role model for new establishments for some time now.

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the venture with a final tally of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the following renewal application:

1. Café Shane, 794 Washington Avenue (Sterling/St. John's Places)

There were no police objections to the renewal application and the full Board voted to support the venture with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are welcome to attend.

#### **Transportation** – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Haitian American Day Care Center. The committee discussed the base license renewal for Monaco Car Service, located at 742 Washington Avenue between Prospect and Park Places. There were no expressed community concerns over the car service, and the full Board voted with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the base license renewal.

There will be no Transportation Committee meeting in November. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue rather than the regularly scheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in honor of the Christmas holiday. All are invited to attend.

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

At the June meeting 2009 Environment/Sanitation committee meeting, members voted to support New York City Council Resolution 1850-A, which is a resolution calling on the United States Congress to adopt legislation removing the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. The resolution also calls on the United States Environmental Protection Agency to apply stringent regulations to protect drinking water supplies from any risk due to hydraulic fracturing, and also seeks the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Legislature, and New York State Governor David Paterson to prohibit drilling for natural gas within the boundaries of the New York City watershed.

The committee is seeking the support of the full board to vote on this resolution and also for the board to join the Kill the Drill campaign ([http://mbpo.org/release\\_details.asp?id=1386&page=](http://mbpo.org/release_details.asp?id=1386&page=)), which is a collection of elected officials, community boards, and advocacy groups who are calling for an immediate ban on natural gas drilling in New York City's watershed.

The committee would also like the Board to submit the following statement on the State's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on hydrofracing:

**The protection of our water comes hand-in-hand with the protection of public health. In New York City, we are lucky to have a fresh, unfiltered water supply that provides 1.1 billion gallons of drinking water to 8.4 million New Yorkers, approximately half the population of New York State. Only five other major cities in the nation can boast an unfiltered water system and it is undoubtedly our greatest natural resource.**

**Introducing horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracing) into the Catskill/Delaware watershed poses the serious risk of contaminants entering our water. Studies of at least eleven states across the**

nation have shown that drinking water was contaminated with chemicals used in the hydrofracing process. Our watershed consists primarily of surface water. Contamination can result from chemical run-off, road traffic or minor spills that may not affect a groundwater supply.

If drilling were allowed to take place this may lead to the loss of the Catskill/Delaware watershed's Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) as granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and would consequently require the building of a \$10 billion water filtration system with an annual running cost of \$100 million to be paid for by the City. The threat to our non-filtration status would hit the average taxpayer the hardest and should not be lightly overlooked. The potential tax revenue from drilling projects pales into insignificance against the huge increase in water rates that would be necessary in order to pay for such a facility. Whilst funds would be gathered from taxpayers across the state, the largest pool of money would come from New York City residents.

Despite the truly staggering costs and risk of contamination, hydrofracing can also require the clear-cutting of forest lands, the construction of new roads, and the storage of harmful carcinogenic chemicals and flow back liquid. The site preparation for drilling is likely to increase erosion and chemical run-off into the reservoirs. The flow back water resulting from hydrofracing has been found to contain various heavy metals, chlorides, dissolved solids, and radioisotopes, all of which can be harmful to human health and could require the water to be filtered.

We are very concerned that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would even consider the risk of exposing our fresh water supply to such harmful chemicals. Hydrofracing has no place in New York State and we wholeheartedly support an explicit ban on such practices in the Catskill/Delaware watershed.

The full Board voted with a final tally of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the resolution.

The next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation Committee will be Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews and Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chairs

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the St. John's Recreation Center, located at 1251 Prospect Place. Friends are still needed for Lincoln Terrace and Brower Park. Anyone interested in volunteering for either park and advocating for their needs should attend the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6 PM, also at the St. John's Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

**Education** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Education Committee met on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at CNR but had no action items. In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah provided the Education Committee's report, stating that additional community participation is required for the committee to function properly.

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

The Youth and Family Services Committee met Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM, at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. In attendance were Princess James, Genel Williams, Kwasi Mensah and Akosua Albritton. Genel Williams methodically ran through her contacts or suggestions for each point of developing the men's event. Princess James did likewise. Ms. James will ensure brochures from BOC Network, Brooklyn Central Library and Brooklyn Business Library are at the event.

Kwasi Mensah offered his thoughts on the program and promised to review the draft program schedule upon receipt via email. Mensah and the committee chair did go over the program schedule wherein Mensah gave extensive comments to panels, workshops and identified issues voiced by previous men.

The chair notified the group about the November 5, 2009 Institute for Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives launch event (5:30 - 8 PM) at Medgar Evers College, located at 1534 Bedford Avenue location (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). The Institute is looking at such actions as arresting individuals as young as 5 years of age and charging youth as adults. If you are

interested in obtaining more information, call 718-804-8852 or 8875. The committee was also informed of the December 7 Campaign for Summer Jobs campaign monthly meeting. At this meeting, they will gear up for their annual youth lobbying mission to Albany, in January 2009.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 6:30 PM, also at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

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

The Aging/Health & Human Services Committee met on Monday, November 2, 2009 at CNR. The committee discussed the availability or lack thereof of healthcare in the District, H1N1 virus (swine flu), and the long wait in emergency rooms.

Diabetes is on the rise, and Ms. Saunders urged everyone to remember portion control through the holiday season.

The committee will next meet on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. Assemblyman Jeffries and Senator Adams will be in attendance to receive an award from the National Association of Nursing Homes, the committee will discuss President Obama's healthcare initiative, and there will be a small Christmas party. All are invited to attend.

**Police** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair

The Police committee met on Monday, October 19, 2009. Ms. Langhorne issued a formal apology to any member that went erroneously to the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, as at the last minute, a decision was made to attend the public safety meeting held by Councilwoman James and Senator Adams. She also commended Councilman Vann for hosting a public safety meeting with the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct to address certain issues and concerns within the community.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 16, 2009 followed by Monday, December 21, at 7 PM, at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Fire/Safety** – Mr. Douglas Williams, Chair

The Fire/Safety Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Haitian American Day Care Center, located at 1491 Bedford Avenue but did not have any action items. Mr. Williams reminded everyone of fire/safety holiday tips to avoid falling victim to unnecessary fire and damage.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2009 also at the Haitian American Day Care Center, at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and opened the floor for new business. She announced that the Economic Development Committee has been diligently working on obtaining community support for President Obama's healthcare initiative. Ms. Oton stated that certain misconceptions regarding the plan need to be eliminated. The voices of small and large businesses need to be heard. Also, healthcare should be portable as well as affordable. There was a meeting with Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and representatives of Congressman Ed Towns' office at the District office regarding the healthcare initiative. Ms. Oton suggested to everyone present that we must reach out to our federal senators to lobby for their support. A resolution will be presented before the Board at the next general meeting so that the community can support the initiative.

Ms. Granville also asked anyone interested to sign up for the blood drive that the District office is attempting to orchestrate. A minimum of 40 signatures are needed for the blood drive to occur. She next asked for a report from the following elected officials:

**Councilman Albert Vann**

Councilman Vann thanked everyone for participating in the voting process and for having their voices heard. It is very important to participate in the voting process regardless of who you vote for. He stated that the City Council will entertain a vote on the kill the bill campaign, and he will support the Community Board's desire.

**Councilwoman Letitia James**

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for their assistance in re-electing her. She provided an update on the Bedford Avenue armory and the plans to relocate the intake shelter to the site. Elected officials recently met with the Brooklyn Borough President regarding the plans. The Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS) has put the proposal to relocate the intake shelter on hold for one year, which is a victory. Brooklyn's elected officials remain staunchly opposed to the intake in an already oversaturated District. She stated it is a victory because we now have one year to have legislation passed in Albany to prevent it from coming to Brooklyn. DHS put out a proposal of \$10 million to place an athletic center in the armory, and that the men that are currently there will remain there. Unfortunately, the athletic center costs \$20 million. Elected officials are working to raise the additional \$10 million needed. The athletic center, thankfully, is not conditional or based on the intake center coming to the site.

DHS cannot relocate the intake center at this time for a number of reasons: first, Bellevue cannot be closed at this time because of the increasing homeless population; second, another building has not been located in Manhattan as suitable. Granted, it is a temporary solution, but it is a victory nonetheless. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but if we remain vigilant, we can defeat the proposal.

As we are in a recession, it is anticipated that there will be cuts in every agency's budget when the Mayor's budget plan comes out shortly. Right now, there are talks of a minimum 10-15% reduction in every agency's budget, including police. After a very violent summer, it is imperative that we all remain aware of our surroundings.

There will be a fundraiser for the late James E. Davis, whose mother's home recently experienced a fire. Information on the fundraiser will be distributed as it is obtained.

**Assemblyman William Boyland**

Assemblyman Boyland stated that discussions over the last few days have centered on the DRP—Deficit Reduction Plan. There is a proposed \$439 million cut from healthcare, which is a terribly idea at the present time. There are hospital and clinic closures and this area is underserved as far as healthcare is concerned. As part of the Governor's doomsday prediction, the same thing going on in California could potentially begin happening here in New York as soon as December. The Senate and Assembly are voting to accept the Governor's proposal because if it is not done within the next two weeks, services will be cut tremendously.

ASA and Touro Colleges will be coming to Brownsville to make sure that everyone has an opportunity for an education. Please call the office at 718-498-8681 if you are interested in taking courses. Funds have been secured for the LIRR station in East New York from Senators Schumer and Gillenbrand. The station is in a horrific state of disrepair, but the funds will be used to rehabilitate the station and the tracks. TD Bank will also be coming to Brownsville this summer.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected officials for their reports and opened the floor for public comments.

**Ms. Kay Dunham** suggested that we oppose the rapid bus route for the B44 bus on Nostrand Avenue because the limited bus route will be lost.

With no additional items to be discussed, Ms. Granville wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

**Guests**

Pat Atwell  
Teri Atwell

Vennette Jones  
Kesha Harmon

Sarah Edwin  
Eric Steiner  
Veda Myers  
Veronica Bayetti  
Tyrone Woods  
Jess Braverman  
Debbie Griffin  
Kay Durham  
Desmond Atkins  
Adler Prioly  
Cinda Farmer  
Carol Brown  
Jean Pockrus  
Stephane Barile  
Elizabeth Hodgson  
Valerie Nero  
Consuela Lawless  
Hazel Hurley  
B. Pierce  
Lula Staton  
Willard Hawkins  
Matthew Bohun

Sandy Taggart  
Rev. D. Pass  
Andrea Hornett-Robinson  
D. Lee  
Mark Thurton  
M. Harry  
Robert Giaessi  
Donna Anckle  
B. Altman

Sam Demaxx  
E. Hoskins  
Michelle Morris Frazier  
Rose Jones  
James Pletcher  
Eunice Oden  
Leslie Taylor  
Tim La' Viticus  
Jacqueline Welch  
Tammy Moore  
Melina Bernardine  
Dorothy Bembry  
Josemae Boyce  
Wayne Bailey  
B. Altman  
Shannon Allen