

**Community Board No. 8
Calvary Community Church
1575 St. John's Place
Brooklyn, NY 11233**

May 12, 2011

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Dr. Adele Allen
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Teri Coaxum
Renaye Cuyler
Diana Foster
Nizjoni Granville
Doris Heriveaux
Xeexema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Marie Louis
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Clarine Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Alton Pierce
Patricia Scantlebury
Meredith Staton
William Suggs
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Ethel Tyus
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Vilma Zuniga

CB Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate

Members Excused/Absent

Princess Benn-James
Helen Coley
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Jamell Henderson
Priscilla Maddox
Angelino Pinto
Robert Puca
Mary Reed
Marlene Saunders
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Gregory Todd
Yves Vilus

Elected Official's Representatives

Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries's Office
Renea Murphy, Councilmember Vann's Office
Jesse Hamilton, Senator Eric Adams' Office
Vincent James, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Alfred Chiodo, Councilmember James' Office
Sarana Purcell, Assemblyman Camara's Office

Liaisons Present

Andrea Phillips-Merriman, BNIA
Gwen Sumter, Brooklyn Children's Museum
Ronda Messer, NYC Dept of Transportation
Randy Wade, NYC Dept. of Transportation

Elected Official's Present

Walter Mosley, Dist. Leader, 57th AD
Ola Alabi, District Leader, 57th AD

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. She asked Reverend Cecil Henry of Calvary Community Church to say a few words. He welcomed Community Board 8 and the community to Calvary. He stated that Calvary Community Church has a long history in this community they have been here for 23 years and is here to serve it in any manner it can. Ms. Granville thanked Rev. Henry for his hospitality and warm welcome.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the last Community Board 8 general meeting were unanimously accepted with any necessary corrections.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other material were distributed for use.

Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP) – Mr. Jeff Allison

Mr. Allison announced that he is the Program Coordinator of Teen RAPP. Teen RAPP operates through Center Against Domestic Violence at the MS 571, Bergen Upper School and is the largest program of its kind in the United States. Since 1999, Teen RAPP has taught teens how to have healthy relationships as 1 in 7 New York high school students will be assaulted or have been assaulted in some way. 2 out of 3 that suffer assault are more likely to suffer from depression and be less likely to complete high school on time or even at all.

RAPP is a \$3 million program that saves countless of dollars in other costs by engaging in preventative measures. Unfortunately, funding for RAPP has been eliminated from the 2012 budget. Ms. Wedderburn asked if there was a website to support the restoration of funds for the program. She was instructed to visit www.saveteenrapp.org and click on the link that would auto send letters.

Mr. Atkins asked what areas are served by the program. He was informed that Teen RAPP has offices all over the city, in 65 schools citywide. In District 8, it operates out of MS 571.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Allison for his information and opened the floor to public comments.

Public Comments

Mr. James Ellis of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce announced the Summer of Celebration. The **Crown Heights Leadership Council**, an informal group of community activists, politicians, law enforcement, and other stakeholders in Crown Heights, are embracing a summer of community events under the banner of Crown Heights' Summer of Celebration.

The goal is to emphasize the positive achievement and energy in Crown Heights, as well as to create excitement and awareness around the many existing services and organizations in this neighborhood. Labeling the many efforts and events in Crown Heights under a common logo and mission statement will create consistency and partnership among the organizers and recognition among residents, hopefully increasing attendance numbers. Event ideas include educational evenings, movie screenings, arts activities, and block parties.

The kickoff event of the summer will be the **71st Precinct's Community Council Family Day picnic on Sunday, June 5th**, located at the **intersection of Empire Boulevard and New York Avenue**. The Crown Heights Community Leadership Council will hold a culminating event and press conference to mark the end of the summer and the twentieth anniversary of the conflict in Crown Heights.

To participate in an event or advertise an event, contact landen@jrcny.org. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, contact Melissa at HooperM@jrcny.org.

Mr. David Tragas of the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center (CHCMC) announced leadership training. In conjunction with the Summer of Celebration, CHCMC is organizing a resource fair for community based organizations and merchant's associations in the areas of health, education, and employment. The resource fair will be located at Hamilton Metz, located at E. New York Avenue between Kingston and Albany Avenue.

Ms. Paige Bellanbaum of Settlement Housing Fund announced the Dreams Youth Build for Young Adults located at 1615 St. John's Place. Dreams Youth Build is a program for 17-24 year olds that offers GED and pre-GED programs as well as a 10-month training program. The 10-month program offers job training, life skills training, on-site construction training, and other necessary skills to find and maintain employment.

There is a class set to graduate in June, which will open 35 slots for new enrollment. Participants receive a \$200 stipend every two weeks for their work, and there is a \$50 bonus available. There will be an open house for the program on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 9 AM. To find out more information or to enroll, call 718-455-4308.

Ms. Tyus asked how long the construction training lasts. She was informed that it lasts 10 months and that participants get an OSHA certificate which is usable country-wide.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their comments and asked for a report from the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee – Mr. William Suggs, Chair

Mr. Suggs read the ballot for elections. He informed members that there is a run-off election for the 3rd Vice Chair position between Ms. Atim Oton and Ms. Sharon Wedderburn. Members are to select one of the two names for the position. Ballots were distributed by Ms. Michelle George, District Manager, and Ms. Julia Neale, Community Associate. He reminded everyone to sign their ballot, otherwise their vote would not count.

The results of the election are as follows:

Chairperson: Ms. Nizjoni Granville

First Vice Chairperson: Ms. Shalawn Langhorne

Second Vice Chairperson: Mr. Robert Witherwax

Third Vice Chair: Ms. Atim Oton (by a margin of 16 votes to 14 votes for Ms. Wedderburn)

Secretary: Ms. Akosua Albritton

Treasurer: Ms. Ethel Tyus

Sergeant at Arms: Mr. Meredith Staton

Chair Emeritus: Mr. Robert Matthews

Ms. Granville thanked the Community Board members present for their vote and asked for a report from the following committees:

Aging/Health & Human Services – Ms. Marlene Saunders, Chairperson

The Aging/Health & Human Services Committee met on Monday, May 2, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have a report. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 5:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. at 6:30 p.m. Present were Renaye Cuyler, Fred Frazier, Priscilla Maddox, Elaine Mahoney, Atim Oton, Alton Pierce, Rebecca Ramirez, Stacey Sheffey, Al Taylor, Greg Todd, and Delissa Reynolds. The committee considered the following new applications:

1. The proprietor for Neptune Diner II located at 699 Classon Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) made a favorable presentation before the committee for his establishment that is seeking a beer and wine license. Neptune Diner II will operate daily from 6 AM to Midnight and will seat 64 patrons indoors at tables and 6 people at the counter, with another 40 on the patio, which will be enclosed. The diner will employ 15-20 individuals.

The proprietor owns another establishment in Astoria, Queens, also called Neptune Diner. There were no complaints issued against the current establishment, nor were there any police objections. The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 26 in favor, 2 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

2. The proprietors of Endless Visions located at 739 Franklin Avenue (between Park and Sterling Places) made a favorable presentation for their establishment that is seeking a full liquor license. Endless Visions will operate a lounge that can seat a total of 32 patrons at tables and chairs with another 8 at the bar. The maximum capacity is 50 individuals. The establishment will operate Monday thru Wednesday from 5 PM to Midnight, Thursday and Friday from 5 PM to 1 AM, Saturday from Noon to Midnight, and Sunday from Noon to 6 PM. Sunday will specifically be for brunch only with no alcohol being served.

The interior back portion of the property will be used as a flexible space with different activities such as art exhibitions, poetry readings, and the like. There were no official police objections to the location and the full Board voted to support the application with 28 members in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the following renewal application:

1. Abby's Level, Inc., located at 1413 Bedford Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place).

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support it with a final tally of 28 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn and Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chairs

The Education Committee met on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Ms. Wedderburn announced that there was a proposal made earlier this year to close MS 571 on the PS 9 campus and co-locate a charter school at the site. There will be a joint public hearing on Wednesday, May 18th to discuss the school closure and co-location of the charter school. Also, PS 9 has submitted an application to the state to expand from a K-5 school to a K-8 school. If the application is denied and MS 571 closes, there will no longer be a middle school in Prospect Heights.

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Environment/Sanitation – Ms. Ede Fox, Chairperson

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have a report. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Fire – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chairperson

The Fire committee met on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee is in the process of compiling a list of "fire traps" in the community to submit to the Fire Department and Police Department. The committee believes this will help prevent fires. The next meeting of the Fire committee will be Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP committee met on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Present were Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Yves Vilus, Sharon Wedderburn, Ken Levenson, Betty Phillips, Maurice Roberts, Karen Taylor, Marcia Polycarpe, Phil Hawkins, Michael Norman, and Adam LaBue.

Mr. Ken Levenson, the architect for a renovation project at 96 St. Marks Avenue presented the owner's proposal to replace the front façade windows. The replacement casement windows are similar in appearance but much more energy efficient than the existing double-hung windows, which sag open at the muntins/sash bars. The replacement windows open sideways and also tilt in.

Mr. Levenson reported that the proposed windows provide 90% Passive/Ultra-low energy consumption levels. The windows are triple-glazed and manufactured in Germany by Reider. The architectural drawings presented shows that the windows proposed appear very similar to those being replaced. The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The committee also discussed 3 decrepit buildings at 119, 120, and 122 Kingston Avenue. The Bergen Street Block Association made a pictorial presentation of the conditions at 120 and 122 Kingston Avenue. In particular, the dumping, loitering accompanied by graffiti, tagging, and other gang activity, lack of building maintenance damaging adjoining properties, lack of sidewalk maintenance (especially snow removal during winter resulting in sheets of ice) were discussed. The adjacent owners provided a photo of a broken downspout at the rear of 120 Kingston Avenue causing substantial ponding and water damage/flooding to the basement of their property at 1298 Bergen Street.

The subcommittee on funding to rehabilitate these buildings is continuing to seek out potential sources of support for the overall project. HPD will be invited to another meeting with the subcommittee as will the owners of the other two buildings. Further outreach is being done to other Community Housing Development Organizations with substantial track records for similar projects to work in conjunction with Friends of CB 8.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be Thursday, June 2, 2011 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, Chairperson; Ms. Kim Albert, Co-Chairperson

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at the St. John's Recreation Center. The committee continues to prepare for its upcoming Community Awareness Day on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at St. John's Park. Participants are still needed; if you are interested in participating,

complete an application and submit it to the District office. The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6 PM at the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. All are invited to attend.

Police – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Police Committee met on Monday, April 18, 2011 at the 77th Precinct. The chair reported that on May 19, 2011 at 6 PM, the Brooklyn Clergy NYPD Taskforce is having a block watch orientation. There will be training for residents and block presidents, as well as anyone willing to do community watch. The task force meeting will be held at Rehoboth Church located at 55 McDougal Street between Ralph and Howard Avenues.

The next meeting of the Police Committee will be Monday, May 16, 2011 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct, located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Transportation – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee heard a presentation from the Department of Transportation back in January regarding a safety plan for Washington Avenue. Ms. George, District Manager expressed the need for additional community outreach and feedback from the residents and businesses in the surrounding area before any action could be taken on the safety plan. Subsequently, three meetings were held and surveys were circulated throughout the area to get community feedback. On Tuesday, April 26, 2011 the Department of Transportation presented their revised safety plan for Washington Avenue before the Transportation Committee at Haitian American Day Care Center located at 1491 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. at 7:00 p.m.

The safety plan includes the following benefits:

- Calms traffic and improves traffic flow by reducing dangerous weaving driving pattern. In addition, new signal timing improves traffic flow while slowing speeding cars.
- Enhances safety and mobility by establishing space in the street for cyclists as well as establishing a designated route for them.
- Improve pedestrian safety by shortening crosswalks
- Enhancing access to businesses and local cultural destinations

Other considerations to be kept in mind are that there will be no changes in the number of travel lanes or overnight parking spaces.

As part of the plan, loading zones will be added for businesses that receive constant shipments of goods and additional meter parking on certain side streets to make up for the lost parking spaces due to the loading zones.

In addition, the following will be added:

- 2 northbound lanes from Dean to Pacific Streets
- Road Striping and Class 2 Bicycle markings between Sterling Pl and Dean St
- Turn Bays at St. Johns Place
- Road Striping and Class 3 Bicycle markings between Eastern Parkway and Sterling Place
- New Crosswalk and Pedestrian Signal at Lincoln Place
- Two Southbound Lanes from St. Johns Pl to Eastern Parkway

In addition, Mr. Jerry Walsh from May Day Hardware offered additional suggestions for DOT to consider that would aid in making Washington Avenue safer. DOT is willing to sit down and discuss the recommendations further.

Ms. Wedderburn asked what the difference is between Class 2 and Class 3 bike lanes. She was informed that Class 3 bike lanes have share markings indicating that the bike lane is in the moving lane. A Class 2 bike lane means there are two lane markings. The Class 3 lane will be installed where there is not enough space for a separate bike lane.

Ms. Albert asked who has the right of way in a class 3 lane and was informed that it is shared. Vehicles are urged to yield to the bike. Ms. Albert also asked what the laws are regarding double parking in bike lanes. She was informed that you cannot block a bike lane.

Mr. Atkins asked if there were any plans to add overhead signs that correlate with the ground striping. He was informed that DOT has no plans for overhead signs. Any complaints can be submitted to the Washington Avenue Prospect Heights Association.

The full Board voted to support the Washington Avenue Safety Project with a final tally of 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Youth/Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In attendance were Angeli Rasbury, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Genel Williams, and Akosua Albritton. The meeting consisted of getting more items for the needs statement and sharing meeting notices.

There's a need for nannies to be informed and access social and educational services in order to advance themselves in society. The public libraries are venues to observe nannies and their charges. In too many cases the women take the children to enjoy books, the Internet, and reading circles; however, they aren't availing themselves of such services as ESL, adult learning centers, the employment centers, the Internet or other media. Further, many nannies may become pregnant; however, don't get sufficient maternity leave. The question is who, then, takes care of the nannies' babies? Ms. Taitt-Hall shared that the nannies in Manhattan have a union. She would give the committee more information about the union in the near future.

Parent engagement in the schools and at home is another issue. The committee discussed how the parents and children are leading separate lives. It appears that they come together when the children get in trouble in public. There's a need for periodic youth & parent events that give them positive, quality time together.

Save our Streets (S.O.S.) Crown Heights is hosting "**Art to End Violence,**" an exhibition and award ceremony of local multimedia art. Art to End Violence will take place on **Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 6-8 PM at Launchpad, located at 721 Franklin Avenue** (between Sterling and Park Place). Light refreshments will be served. To learn more about S.O.S. and this event, visit www.soscrownheights.org or call 718-679-9410.

The 8th Annual Children's Sports & Fitness Expo, sponsored by Body Sculpt of New York, Inc., will be held June 11 at Boys & Girls High School (1700 Fulton Street), from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Finally, Mayor Bloomberg issued an Executive Budget that reduces the children's services budget by \$215.27 million. An additional 16,000 day care slots will be lost in September after 25,000 were already lost in April.

The next meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and reopened the floor for public comments and announcements.

Ms. Sarana Purcell from Assemblyman Karim Camara's office announced the Block Association Presidents' meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 6-8 PM at St. Louis Senior Center located at 230 Kingston Avenue. Quality of life issues such as noise pollution, block parties, crime, public safety, policing, and more will be discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Renae Murphy from Councilman Albert Vann's office distributed the April City Hall Roundup newsletter.

Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad encouraged those with college bound children to apply for scholarships. More applicants are needed for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's scholarships. Visit www.cbcf.org for a list of scholarships available and to apply.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at the Haitian American Day Care Center located at 1491 Bedford Avenue. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Guests

Pauline Rosa
Jea Best
A. Andrews
Glenn D.
Jaime G.
Thomas M.
James Ellis
Sister Pauline Russell
David Petraitis
Willard Hawkins
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Sarando Katsihtis
Arlene D.
Ariana D.
Arielle Marks
Kristin Relleher
Richard Miller
Drew Hornbein

Jacqueline Welch
Lisa Fitzpatrick
Lisa Jones
Charles Hickmon
Hazel Hurley
Agatha Baptiste
Amy Clark
Mary Gibbs
Kenny Gibb
Jeffery Henry
Vanessa Babb
Lisa Jones
Malcolm M.
Dr. C
Mark Thurton
Deborah Young
Kay Dunham