

**Community Board No. 8  
Brooklyn Children's Museum  
145 Brooklyn Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**September 9, 2010**

**Public Hearing**

Ms. Granville called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The following items were presented:

**Community Board No. 8 District Needs for the Capital and Expense Budget for Fiscal Year 2012**

The Capital and Expense Budget was distributed to members and residents. Ms. Langhorne and Mr. Witherwax alternately read the requests submitted by the Board.

Ms. Granville made a motion that the Capital and Expense Budget Requests for District 8 be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and the agencies for FY 2012. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and passed with a final tally of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

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**Members Present**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Dr. Adele Allen  
Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Viola Bing  
Julia Boyd  
Teri Coaxum  
Helen Coley  
Renaye Cuyler  
Diana Foster  
Ede Fox  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Jesse Hamilton  
Jamell Henderson  
Princess Benn-James  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Marie Louis  
Priscilla Maddox  
Robert Matthews  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Alton Pierce  
Angelina Pinto  
Mary Reed  
William Suggs  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**Members Excused**

Clarine Miller  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
Atim Oton  
Marlene Saunders  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Meredith Staton  
Launa Thomas-Bullock

**Members Absent**

Dawn Brown  
Doris Heriveaux  
Shirley Lee  
Hasoni Pratts  
Robert Puca  
Audrey Taitt-Hall

**Elected Official's Representatives**

Lee Church, Assemblyman Jefferies  
Alfred Chiodo, Councilwoman James  
James Vogel, Senator Montgomery  
Carl Luciano, Councilman Vann  
Jesse Hamilton, Senator Adams

**Elected Official's Present**

District Leader Walter Mosley  
District Leader JesseHamilton

**CB Staff Present**

Michelle George

**Liaisons Present**

Saadia Adossa, Kings County DA Hynes  
P.O Pierre-Louis, 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Sam Pierre, Mayor's Office

Ms. Granville welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Fiscal Year.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously accepted with the following corrections. Ms. Ethel Tyus name was misspelled and Congresswoman Yvette Clark was listed as Councilwoman.

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

Ms. Granville asked Ms. Margaret Walton, Director of Government and Community Relations at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum to say a few words.

Ms. Walton welcomed everyone to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum and introduced Ms. Gwen Sumter. She informed everyone that the museum will be closed to the general public from Monday, September 13, 2010 through Friday, September 24, 2010 for annual maintenance. The museum will re-open on Saturday, September 25, 2010 with a debut of their newest exhibit, Out on a Limb, adventures with nature and art. She urged everyone to come back and visit the museum and bring their children and/or grandchildren.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Walton and Ms. Sumter for the information. She asked Mr. Samuel Pierre from the Mayor’s Office to say a few words.

Mr. Pierre stated that he is the new Brooklyn Borough Director at the Community Assistance Unit. He stated that he has big shoes to fill because he is taking the place of Mrs. Carolyn Saunders-James who recently retired.

He stated that Mayor Bloomberg signed legislation to update the process for registering multiple dwellings with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Introduction # 87-A improves transparency and enhances accountability of the process by which corporations register multiple dwellings they own with HPD.

The primary goal is to get all property owners to comply with the law and register with the Department. Full compliance is a means to enforce landlord accountability, which in turn, can help ensure tenant units are properly maintained and that complaints and violations are quickly addressed and remediated.

He also mentioned that New York City public schools opened this week. The doors opened to several new school buildings that really stand out, both in quantity and quality. The Mayor and the Department of Education has added more than 17,000 new classroom seats to the school system - the most the City has brought on line in one year in more than 20 years. In fact, they’re on course to create a net of nearly 100,000 new classroom seats citywide in the ten-year period that ends in 2013; that’s roughly equivalent to the entire public school enrollment in the city of Baltimore. These new schools are some of the most innovative and exciting new schools New Yorkers have ever seen.

Mr. Pierre stated that Fashion Week started today in New York City. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week’s new location at Lincoln Center located between West 62nd and 65th Streets and Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, provides attendees with convenient transportation and access to the event

via subway, buses, taxi and car service. He urged the community to take advantage of Fashion Week if they could.

He thanked Ms. Granville for an opportunity to speak and stated that he looks forward to working with Community Board 8.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Pierre for the information and asked for the following committee reports.

**Aging/Health** – Marlene Saunders, Chair

The Aging/Health Committee did not meet for the month of September. The next meeting of the Aging/Health Committee will be held on Monday, October 4, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**Economic Development** – Priscilla Maddox, Chair

The next meeting of the Economic Development committee will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**Education** – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The next meeting of the Education committee will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Wedderburn invited everyone to come to the Education Committee meeting where you have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community. At next's weeks meeting they plan to layout a work plan for the coming year. The committee plans to discuss reauthorization of financial legislation regarding education and tools for educating young men of color. Mr. Mensah, Co-Chair has been actively engaged in an initiative with DOE that targets educating young men of color.

The committee also plans to join a number of community groups in central Brooklyn who are working on a project to strengthen the level of parental involvement in our schools. Lastly, Ms. Wedderburn mentioned the Smith College Women of Distinction Program. This program is for high school juniors and seniors. It highlights the opportunities at Smith College for African American, Asian American, Latina and Native American Students. Participants in this three day program will explore and determine whether it might be an appropriate college choice for them. The program will be held from November 12-14, 2010. Application must be received by September 24, 2010. For more information, please visit [admission@smith.edu](mailto:admission@smith.edu).

**Environment/Sanitation** – Ede Fox, Chair

The next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

**Fire/Safety** – Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax thanked Mr. Douglas Williams for his dedicated service to the Community Board especially the Fire/Safety committee. He also thanked Mr. Williams for meeting with him this evening. Mr. Witherwax stated that he is the new chair of the Fire/Safety Committee. He is a homeowner, a parent and nothing scares him more than possibly waking up in the middle of the night

and smell smoke in his house or hear the smoke alarm going off and know what to do. So when the board approached him to chair this committee he agreed and decided to use this chairmanship as a learning opportunity that would be very valuable. He asked that other members of the board join him for the next year or so on this learning curve. This committee deals with fire safety, fire prevention, fire education all are very vital to this community. District 8 has had a history of arson, a history of faulty wiring, accidental fires, etc. The Fire Committee has had great leadership and members over the years; AnnaMarie Blinn, Connie Lesold, Holly Fuchs and he would like you to help him carry on the baton. He hopes that Dr. Adele Allen will help and join him as co-chair of the Fire/Safety Committee. The next meeting of the Fire/Safety Committee will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, September, 15, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

### **Housing/ULURP**- Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing/Land Use Committee met on Thursday, September 2, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m. The committee discussed the following applications:

The owner of 915 Dean Street (Block 1133, Lot 64) filed an application with the Board of Standards and Appeal for a special permit to allow for the reduction in the normal parking requirements for Use Group 6. This requires 1 parking space per 300 square feet. The owner is seeking permission to allow 1 space per 600 sq ft. Currently, this building is a warehouse. The owner plans to convert the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into offices for a dialysis center and reduce the parking from 38 parking spaces to 19.

The Committee voted 6 in favor, 1 abstention and none against and hopes the full board will do the same. Ms. Granville moved for the Housing/ULURP Committee that the full board support the committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a vote of 32 in favor, 2 against with no abstentions.

The Committee also received information from the attorney representing the owners of 527 Lincoln Place near Franklin Avenue (Block 1178, Lot 67). The owner has converted a vacant lot into a 7 story, 24 unit rental property. They have applied for a Partial Tax Exemption from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. To meet the requirements the owners must provide at least 20% of the onsite units affordable to individuals and families at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). After a lengthy discussion, the Committee tabled this item for further clarification.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

### **Parks** – Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee did not meet for the month of September. Ms. Andrews stated that the Parks Committee is sad to lose Mr. Robert Witherwax as co-chair, however, Ms. Kim Albert has agreed to work with the committee. CB8 has quite a few capital projects taking place this year. Our elected officials have been very generous in allocating funding for our parks. Construction has started on the ballfield at St. John's Park behind St. John's Recreation Center. This project is sponsored by Mayor Bloomberg PlaNYC 2030. Completion is expected spring 2011. Councilman Vann also allocated additional funds for St. John's Recreation Center. The Parks Department is in the design phase for

the comfort stations at St. John's, plans are expected this fall. Councilwoman Mealy allocated funding for Lincoln Terrace Park.

Ms. Andrews announced the retirement of Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel. He will be retiring after 37 years of service. There will be a retirement party in his honor on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at the Tobacco Warehouse. For more information contact the Parks Department at 718-965-8900.

Ms. Albert invited everyone to the next meeting of the Parks Committee which will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at St. John's Recreation Center, 1251 Prospect Place at 6:00 p.m.

**Police** – Shalawn Langhorne, Chair

The next meeting of the Police Committee will be held on Monday, September 20, 2010 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 127 Utica Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

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

Dr. Monderson invited everyone to the next meeting of the Transportation Committee which will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 727 Classon Avenue at 7:00 p.m. The committee will be meeting jointly with the Transportation Committee of Community Board 6 to hear a presentation by Department of Transportation regarding the North Flatbush BID Area Streetscape Improvements Capital Project.

**Youth & Family Services** – Akousa Albritton, Chair

The next meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Albritton announced that on August 30, 2010 Governor David Paterson signed the following Bill into law (S.3601-D/A.3065-E): It requires certain day care centers to provide six months notice before it intends to close its facility. This bill must give parents sufficient notice before it plans to close day care centers.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and again welcomed the new board members to the board. She stated that she looks forward to working with them.

She acknowledged the elected officials and elected official representatives and asked the District Leaders if they had any information to share.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he is the District Leader of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly district. He has also been hired to represent State Senator Eric Adams from the 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. He stated that right behind the museum is Brower Park. This park is being underutilized, he will be working with block associations to help clean it up and make it a friendly park where place parents want to bring their children. He stated that the primary is Tuesday, September 14, 2010. He urged everyone to go out and vote. He also mentioned that there are positions available to work at the polls on Election Day, if anyone is interested in working, please see him after the meeting or call the CB office for his telephone number.

He thanked Senator Adams for his campaign to “Stop the Sag”. This campaign calls for the end to the sagging trend where young men are wearing their pants too low. Senator Adams believes that if “You can raise your level of respect if you raise your pants”.

Lastly, he stated that after 4 years the murderer of Benny Lyde had been captured. He applauded the hard work of the NYPD, the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council, the Community Board, local elected officials and the community at large who came together to fight for justice. Although, this murder has been solved there are countless others that haven’t so if you know something please say something, call 800-577-TIPS.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Hamilton for his remarks and mentioned that a Friends of Brower Park group has been formed and several members are present this evening. They have been working very closely with the Parks Department in an effort to spruce up the park. If anyone is interested in joining Friends of Brower Park see the members after the meeting.

She asked Mr. Walter Mosley, District Leader 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District if he had anything to share. Mr. Mosley informed residents that several names will not appear on the ballots because candidates are running unopposed and advised residents not to be alarmed by that.

Mr. Mosley announced that he will be co-sponsoring a free housing clinic along with Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries on September 29, 2010 at Medgar Evers College from 6-8p.m. All are welcome to attend. For further information, please call Assemblyman Jeffries office at 718-596-0100.

Mr. Lee Church, Community Affairs representative from Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries office stated that Assemblyman Jeffries proposed legislation to rename the state office building at 55 Hanson Place in honor of Shirley Chisholm. The renaming ceremony will be held on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Granville asked for the public comments:

Mr. Hawkins stated that Friends of Brower Park are in dire need of residents who love to plant. He also highlighted a number of issues he has with the park and invited community residents to join them in their effort to clean up Brower Park. If you are interested, please email [FriendsofBrowerPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofBrowerPark@gmail.com).

Mr. James Vogel, Downstate Communication Coordinator for Senator Montgomery stated that it was very gratifying to hear the Education Committee speak on the importance of parental involvement, this is very important to Senator Montgomery. This past spring she insisted that the Department of Education raise the cap and put back the provision that parents have a voice in the charter school their kids attend. He also stated that Gov. Paterson vetoed all member items this year. Senators Montgomery, Adams and the other majority democrats will address this issue in a session this September.

He congratulated Community Board 8 for still being around. As you know earlier this year Mayor Bloomberg appointed a Charter Revision Commission who considered eliminating Community Boards and because the public roared that got pushed back. But we know that the idea to eliminate community boards will come up again. We have to do everything possible to ensure that community boards remain in effect.

A community resident expressed his dissatisfaction with the district manager after she failed to contact him upon a request made at the end of the June Community Board meeting. Ms. Granville and several members all admonished the resident for not following up with a telephone call of his own to address it shortly thereafter, rather than waiting three months to address the issue. When questioned what his concerns were, he stated that his concerns were related to parking on Pacific Street near the new charter school. Dr. Monderson invited him to attend the next meeting of the Transportation Committee to discuss this issue. Ms. George agreed to speak with him after the meeting.

Ms. Granville continued, stating that if anyone has an issue of pressing concern, they can either visit the district office or email her directly at [nizjoni@verizon.net](mailto:nizjoni@verizon.net) or [nizj2oni@aol.com](mailto:nizj2oni@aol.com), with CB8 in the subject box.

Mr. Witherwax also suggested that residents put all concerns, issues, complaints in writing. The board's email address is [info@brooklyncb8.org](mailto:info@brooklyncb8.org).

Ms. Shirley Fraser a community resident who lives adjacent to the BP gas station and car wash on Bedford Avenue at Eastern Parkway complained about excessive horn honking and loud radio playing. She stated that she attended the June meeting and has written letters to everyone and nothing is being done.

Ms. Langhorne stated that Ms. George and Mr. Alfred Chido from Councilwoman James office organized a meeting with the owner, the manager and several community residents regarding this issue. There are several signs posted warning motorists not to honk their horns and also asking them to lower the volume of their radios. The owner has agreed that his attendants will be more assertive when cars approach the station. Ms. Fraser acknowledged that a meeting had taken place and was very positive however, more attention needs to be paid to the station by the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Ms. George stated that will reach out to the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct and request additional patrol of the area.

Ms. Langhorne invited Ms. Fraser to the Police Committee meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and stated that she is happy that some progress is being made. Ms. Fraser thanked Ms. George and Mr. Chido for all their assistance with BP.

A member of the Crown Heights North Association announced their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual House Tour on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Opening ceremonies will begin at 10:15 a.m. at St. Gregory the Great RC Church corner of Brooklyn Avenue and St. John's Place.

For more information please visit their website at [www.crownheightsnorth.org](http://www.crownheightsnorth.org) or [www.wix.com/CHNA2010/CHNA-2010-House-tour](http://www.wix.com/CHNA2010/CHNA-2010-House-tour).

Ms. Granville urged everyone to come out and enjoy these homes. Many people have restored the historical character of their homes and it's really amazing to see.

A community resident asked the Education Chair if she knew how many residents from the community are employed at the new charter school. Ms. Wedderburn stated that she didn't know the exact number off hand but would find out. She also stated that charter schools are run by charter management companies. This new high school is an amalgamation of three charter schools which

are run by three different management companies. She will try to get the information in time for the Education Committee meeting next week.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending. She stated that the next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on October 14, 2010 at Berean Missionary Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

### **Guests Present**

Willard Hawkins	James Brown
Dorothy Jean Bembry-Guet	Hillary Miller
Anthony Taylor	Betty Pierce
Sheila Davis	Maquita Peters
Zach Haberman	Stephanie Pimentel
Douglas Williams	Jane Christopher
Emmett Hoskins	A. Andrews
Frank Giddins	Lorna Ottley
Mahkeddah Thompson	Charles Hickmon
Shirley Mondesir	Paula Pinnoch
Graydon Gordian	James Caldwell
Frank Braxville	Valerie Nero
Alphonso Kitt	Brian Saul
Mr. Davis	Sharon Clemmons
Ambiodie Guitirrez	Phil Hawkins
Randy	Tammy Moore
Bishop Kroll	C. Delgado
Debbie Bowen	Chuck Moss
Diana Wheaton	Agnes Poyotte
Barbara Glayat	Dian Duke
Jenelle Welch	Jonez Ottley
Joyce Robinson	Shirley Fraser
Kay Dunham	Consuela Lawless
Grace Edwards	Alex Alpin
Perri Edmunds	Andrea Phillips
Gwen Sumter	Margaret Walton
Cinda Farmer	Darnell Jones
Rohon Williams	Renee Collymore
Rose Jones	