

**Community Board No. 8
Hebron 7th Day Adventist Church
1256 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216**

March 10, 2011

Members Present

Kim Albert
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Diana Foster
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Marie Louis
Priscilla Maddox
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Alton Pierce
Marlene Saunders
Patricia Scantlebury
Meredith Staton
William Suggs
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax

CB Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate

Members Excused

Akosua Albritton
Teri Coaxum
Helen Coley
Renaye Cuyler
Clarine Miller
Angelina Pinto
Robert Puca
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent

Dr. Adelle Allen
Jamell Henderson
Doris Heriveaux
Mary Reed

Elected Official's Representatives

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

Liaisons Present

Sam Pierre, Mayor's Office

Elected Official's Present

Honorable Walter Mosley, 57th Assembly
Dist Leader

Ms. Granville called the public hearing on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and Requests for Fiscal Year 2012 to order at 7:15 PM. Public hearing items on the budget for FY 2012 were distributed to all community board members and community residents. She asked Ms. Langhorne, First Vice Chair, Mr. Witherwax, Second Vice Chair, and Ethel Tyus to read the Capital and Expense budget items and agency responses.

Dr. Monderson made a motion to send a letter expressing the Board's dissatisfaction and disappointment with the agency responses. The motion passed with a final tally of 28 in favor of a letter expressing disappointment, 0 in opposition, with 0 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for participating in the public hearing and suggested that community residents forward budget request items to the District office before July so that the items can be included in the next budget. She then called the general meeting of Community Board 8 to order at 7:45 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 Ms. Humphrey from Achievement First for a brief presentation on the scholarly applications of the Charter School franchise.

Achievement First – Ms. Devyn Humphrey, Assoc. Director of Government/External Relations

Ms. Humphrey announced that Achievement First is recruiting new students for Kindergarten, 5th and 9th grades for the new school that is opening at 510 Waverly Avenue.

Achievement First focuses on 4 key points, and it is these points that allow the franchise to excel. The franchise focuses on 1. Curriculum/Academics; 2. Longer school days (hours are from 7:15 AM to 4 PM); 3. A longer school year (the school year runs from Mid-August to the end of June); and 4. A character value program that is as focused on building character as it is on academics.

Achievement First searches for quality teachers across the country to make sure students get the preparation they need to go to college. There is a strong parent/teacher relationship as parents and teachers enter into a contract mandating parental involvement. Achievement First schools are doing so well they are out-performing community school districts. This unfortunately, is the result of the bar being set too low for community school districts. The goal is ultimately to out-perform other counties where standards are higher.

Mr. Atkins stated that he didn't hear nurturing as one of the key points that Achievement First focuses on. It is essential that students are instilled with a desire to learn without fear. He was informed that Achievement First believes that and aims toward a nurturing environment.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if there is a PTA in Achievement First schools. She was informed that there is a PLC—Parent Leadership Council that meets monthly. The PLC puts on programs for parents and teachers, holds events, sponsors book drives, and emphasizes that there are families in need and showing kids that they can help.

Dr. Monderson asked how teachers respond to the longer work hours and was informed that Achievement First works on a better pay scale for teachers. All teachers get a lot of professional development, and have the support systems in place to allow them to succeed.

Ms. Humphrey stated that Achievement First desires to be a school that is embraced by the community when complaints of the new High School surfaced. In fact, the lottery system actually gives preference to students in the community that the school is located as well as low income families.

Ms. James asked what the percentage of students in Achievement First schools were special needs. She was informed that the majority of schools meet the District special needs numbers as the franchise works toward equality.

Mr. Staton asked if the high school ever received permission to use St. Andrews Park in the Community Board 3 area. He was informed that while she could not specifically answer the question, she is aware that there is a space on the rooftop of the high school building that is used for recreation.

A community resident asked if each of the schools was an independent entity or if they operated within other public schools. Ms. Humphrey stated that the elementary and middle schools are co-located within other schools but the high school is its own entity.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Humphrey for her report 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, March 7, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have any action items. The next meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 5:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Economic Development – Ms. Priscilla Maddox and Ms. Atim Oton, Co-Chairs

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In attendance were Gail Branch-Muhammad, Renaye Cuyler, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Priscilla Maddox, Elaine Mahoney, Atim Oton, Alton Pierce, Rebeca Ramirez, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Consuela Lawless, Stacey Sheffey, Rachel Anderson, and Desmond Atkins. The committee discussed the following new application:

The proprietor of Kelso Restaurant located at 648 Franklin Avenue (Bergen/St. Marks) made a favorable presentation for her establishment that is seeking a beer/wine license. Kelso will seat 35 and operate Monday thru Thursday from Noon to 9 PM and Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 11 PM and Sunday from 10 AM to 9 PM. Soft background/radio music will be played.

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The committee also discussed the following renewal applications:

1. The Spot, 417 Prospect Place (Grand/Classon)
2. Washington Tavern, LLC, 434 Park Place (at Washington Avenue)
3. Cataldo "54, Inc., 554 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean/Bergen)
4. Sushi Tatsu II, 609 Franklin Avenue (Pacific/Dean)
5. Sharlene's, 353 Flatbush Avenue (Carlton/Sterling)

There were no police objections to either of the applications and the full Board voted to support all five applications with a final tally of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Economic Development committee will be Tuesday, April 12, 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, February 17, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Mr. Mensah made a plea for additional community presence at the meetings as Education is a very important community issue.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

Environment/Sanitation – Ms. Ede Fox and Ms. Helen Coley, Co-Chairs

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Ms. Fox made a plea for more members to attend the meetings so that work within the committee for the betterment of the community can be done. The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Fire/Safety – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair

The Fire/Safety committee met on Wednesday, February 18, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Mr. Witherwax made a public plea for members. If you would like to be on the committee but find the meeting time to be inconvenient, let the District office know so that it can be changed. The committee can only be successful if it has members and the members work together.

The next meeting of the Fire/Safety committee will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

Housing/ULURP – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In attendance were Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Danae Oratowski, Angelina Pinto, Stacey Scheffey, Meredith Staton, and Ethel Tyus.

The committee discussed a Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) application for 97 St. Marks Avenue, a property that falls within the Prospect Heights Historic District. The applicant is seeking to appeal a Dept. of Buildings revocation of a curb cut permit that was granted after landmarks designation. The owners are applying to the BSA for a variance to install the curb cut that is required to facilitate converting the ground floor to a garage. In turn, the conversion of the ground floor to a garage will reduce the floor area ratio sufficiently to permit the owners to construct an elevator at the rear of the building for all four floors.

The committee and the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) raised a number of issues with the proposed changes to the property, all pertaining to the historic designation. Specifically, concerns were expressed that the planned exterior changes will adversely affect the significant, protected features of the building, and cannot be found to be appropriate or in harmony with the existing streetscape. Furthermore, it was asserted that the Landmarks Preservation Commission has jurisdiction in this particular case and not the Dept. of Buildings, which is the agency that would approve the curb cut and planned changes if the BSA approves the appeal. Additional concerns are that if the BSA were to grant this exception, it would significantly weaken the new historic district, which depends to a great degree on voluntary cooperation of the community. The result would be confusion about LPC regulations and finding ways of circumventing them.

A question arose regarding the use of the elevator and whether it would serve a specific purpose. Mr. Witherwax stated that the location is a private residence with no tenants. The elevator and curb cut would be for the personal convenience of the owner.

As a result, the full Board voted to send a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals requesting that they deny the application on these grounds. The motion passed with a final tally of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be Thursday, April 7, 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, Chair

The Parks committee met on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at the St. John's Recreation Center. The committee discussed the upcoming Awareness Day on June 4th. Fliers and applications for organization participation were distributed.

Mr. Staton asked if Ms. Andrews had any information on fee increases to utilize the center and he was informed that fee increases are in the works, but have not been officially announced as of yet.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

Police – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair

The Police Committee met Monday, February 21, 2011 at the 77th Precinct. Ms. Langhorne announced that many city agencies can be non-responsive because committees and hence the community is not active enough. More participation from the community is needed to place pressure on city agencies—including the police department—to be cognizant of the needs and desires of the community.

The next meeting of the Police committee will be held on Monday, March 21, 2011 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Transportation – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair

The Transportation committee met on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were Dr. Fred Monderson, Doug Williams, Xeerxeema Jordan, Elyse A Johnson, and Daniel Garwood. The committee heard a presentation from the Dept. of Transportation on the safety improvement plan for Washington Avenue. The committee also discussed the continuing problems with MV Para Transit Company on Dean/Pacific Streets between Utica and Rochester Avenues.

Dr. Monderson asked those present to keep in mind that Washington Avenue has historic status within the Community Board. Several years ago a portion of the strip was co-named in honor of Councilwoman Mary Pinkett, then the intersection of St. John's and Washington was co-named for the firemen lost in 9/11, and finally, the corner of Lincoln Place and Washington Avenue was co-named for Etheline Dubin, former 1st Vice Chair of Community Board 8.

DOT is expected to make another presentation on the status of Washington Avenue Safety Plan on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 7 PM at Haitian American Day Center located at 1491 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The next transportation committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Youth/Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth/Family Services Committee met on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In attendance were Princess Benn-James, Angeli Rasbury (Brooklyn Central Public Library), Carolyn Somersell (St. John's Place Family Ctr DCC), Audrey Taitt-Hall, Robert Puca and Jamell Henderson.

The committee discussed a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Albany Houses for a new Teen Impact Center, a safe place for youth between the ages of 14-19 years to visit. Services offered are games, homework assistance, and computer access. Angeli Rasbury was concerned that this program and others are set up *after* young people have committed crimes.

Ms. James wanted to do an event for girls attending the Albany Houses Team Impact Center. This request was an opportunity to remind the committee the function and role of community boards. Community boards are not direct service providers rather supporters of local service providers and assessors of the effectiveness of these services. The boards also identify gaps in services. Boards through the committee structure provide letters of support, make referrals to funding sources, make recommendations for certain State Liquor Authority licenses, housing and ULURP, and capital and expense budget items. With this in mind, the committee could plan an event for teen girls and make special effort to get the girls at this center to attend. Also, individual committee members are encouraged to engage with the young women on a one-to-one level.

The next topic was the shutting down of 16,624 day care slots which affect not only the children, but their parents and child care center employees. Carolyn Somersell explained that ACS sent a letter to families whose child care subsidies are due to expire.

The chairwoman went over the NYS Senate Juvenile Justice Reform Agenda. State Senator Velmanette Montgomery has been the prime mover of it.

The next meeting of the Youth/Family Services committee will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and acknowledged the elected officials' representatives present.

Councilman Albert Vann's Office – Ms. Renea Murphy

Ms. Murphy announced that the Council passed Intro 332A that expands the City's Smoke Free Air Act to include a ban on smoking in the City's parks, beaches, marinas, and boardwalks. The Council also passed the Lien Sale Reform and Reauthorization Act, a proposition that the councilman sponsored. The bill will add comprehensive protections to help New Yorkers retain their homes even if they have unpaid water bills. Ms. Murphy distributed the Councilman's newsletter which provided greater detail.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Murphy and asked District Leader Mosely if he had anything to share.

57th Assembly District Leader – Mr. Walter Mosely

District Leader Mosely stated that there are two primary responsibilities for the District Leader: 1. to make sure that the people endorsed by the party are put on the ballot; and 2. to endorse judges. He stated that after investigating, it has been found that people going to court are going without representative. This lack of representation is pervasive throughout the community. Many judges, however, are compassionate about the issue. Assemblyman Jeffries is co-sponsoring a forum for judges to speak to community (date and location to be determined).

The budget crisis is affecting everyone. Everyone is asked to do more with less, but we cannot balance the budget on the backs of seniors and children. There will be a rally opposing cuts to senior centers on Friday, March 18th at 11 AM on the steps of City Hall. For more information,

contact Senator Adams' office at 718-284-4700. In addition, District Leader Mosely informed the Board that 1 million units of subsidized housing is set to be lost with the new budget come July 1, 2011.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Mosely for his report and asked Mr. Pierre if he had anything to share.

Mayor's Office/C.A.U. – Mr. Sam Pierre, Brooklyn borough Director

Mr. Pierre announced the Mayor's proposal to establish a new category of livery cabs that can make on-street pickups outside of Manhattan just like yellow cabs do. It will give many New Yorkers another safe, reliable and convenient option for getting around. The program aims to improve taxi availability while bringing yellow-taxi-like amenities (e.g., metered fares, credit/debit card payments, easier-to-spot cabs) to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

The City wants to hear from residents about your experiences with taxis and car services and has developed a brief online survey where your voice can be heard.

To let the City know what you think go to the TLC web site (www.nyc.gov/taxi) to find the links to the surveys.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Pierre for his information and asked Mr. James if he had anything to share.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's Office – Mr. Vincent James, Chief of Staff

Mr. James announced that the Councilwoman has 25 vouchers available for free flu shots at Walgreens or Duane Reade. To obtain a voucher, contact the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097.

The next Community Advisory Board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10 Am to Noon at the Councilwoman's office located at 425 Utica Avenue, at the corner of Empire Blvd.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. James for his report and asked Ms. Purcel for an update from Assemblyman Camara's office.

Assemblyman Karim Camara's Office – Ms. Sarana Purcel

Ms. Purcel announced that the Assemblyman, in conjunction with the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council is hosting a Tax Assistance Roundtable on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 6 to 8 PM at the Jewish Children's Museum located at 792 Eastern Parkway.

Ms. Purcel also announced that in conjunction with Councilman Albert Vann, the assemblyman is hosting a health fair on March 26, 2011. Free mammograms, diabetes screenings, and blood pressure screenings will be available. Call 718-953-0857 for more information.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Purcel for her report and asked Mr. Church if he had anything to share.

Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries Office – Mr. Lee Church

Mr. Church announced that we are facing a difficult time with the budget. However, Assemblyman Jeffries continues to fight for those services that he deems vital to the community. He is fighting to restore funding to senior centers and youth services. Brooklyn currently has the highest ratio of senior centers slated to be cut with 31.

Princess James stated that DYCD is slated to be cut by \$3.5 million, which would not only affect youth, but also seniors as well since DYCD is the conduit through which a lot of funds are dispersed. Mr. Church agreed, and stated that that is why Assemblyman Jeffries is fighting to restore funding for seniors and youth services.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Church for his information and asked Mr. Hamilton if he had anything to share.

Senator Eric Adams' Office – Mr. Jesse E. Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton announced that there will be a rally opposing cuts to senior centers on Friday, March 18th at 11 AM on the steps of City Hall. For more information, contact Senator Adams' office at 718-284-4700. He also presented a petition to oppose cuts and asked those interested in preserving funding for necessary programs to sign.

He also announced that the Rosa Parks Democratic Club meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 AM. In past months, a judge from a different area has been on hand to discuss legal rights in their specific field. A judge will be present at the next meeting, which will be held on March 19, 2011 at 284 New York Avenue (entrance on Lincoln Place) to discuss housing issues and concerns and what rights those facing evictions have.

Mr. Hamilton also announced that on February 25, 2011, Senator Adams honored our District Manager, Michelle George, at a community breakfast for exemplary service to the community.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Hamilton and the rest of the officials' representatives and announced that it has been 2 years since the last election and it is time for elections. She announced that the nominating committee would consist of William Suggs, Fred Frazier, Dr. Frederick Monderson, and Launa Thomas-Bullock.

She opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Launa Thomas-Bullock thanked Ms. Granville and Ms. George for their assistance during her health and home crises. She stated that she is happy to be back and is willing to work for the improvement of the community.

Ms. Donna Luis, a resident of New York Avenue, issued a concern regarding the actions of some of the parishioners of Hebron 7th Day Adventist Church. She stated that some parishioners double park, preventing the bus from being able to travel down the street and honk horns. In addition, some of the youth of the church hang out in front of 110 New York blocking residents' entry and exit. She also complained of a lack of police presence in the area despite the building being a part of the NYPD's FTAP (Federal Trespass Affidavit Program) program.

The head of security at Hebron stated that the church is trying to work with the community. He stated that he would look in to her allegations and would remind parishioners to be courteous. The church is very large and it takes coordination and cooperation to keep affairs flowing smoothly. He vowed that security personnel will work on the issues.

Ms. Langhorne, Chair of the Police Committee, stated that she would reach out to the NYPD on the tenants behalf to try to get assistance with enforcement.

Ms. Rebecca Ramirez of Heart of Brooklyn thanked the Community Board on behalf of the merchants of Washington Avenue for having DOT hold meetings regarding their plans for the Washington Avenue Safety Project. DOT will now make changes to their plans based on merchant input.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Damon Holmes
Jean Best
Audrey Andrews
Ray Gish
Sharlene Frank
Connie Lawless
Willard Hawkins
Dorothy Bembry
Bridget Beatty
Velvet Hall
Lula Staton
Wilma Ferebee
Rebeca Ramirez
Donna Luis
Barbara Brown
Lawrence Brown
Curtis Harris
Harold Williams

Mark Coleman
Lee Ann Banks
Sharon Brown
Roxanne Perry
John Harris
Kim Johnson
S. Tutein
Anthony Taylor
Shirley Mondesir
Veronica Parker
Al Taylor
Elder Romel Viel
Lisa Fitzpatrick
LaCheryl James
Phillipa Trotman
Iva Webster
Cem Lorrisdee