

**Community Board No. 8  
Concern for Independent Living  
151 Rochester Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**March 14, 2014**

**Members Present**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Samantha Bernardine  
Julia Boyd  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Helen Coley  
Dian Duke  
Phu Duong  
Diana Foster  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Curtis Harris  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Tarves Lord  
Robert Matthews  
Adelaide Miller  
Atim Oton  
Robert Puca  
Marlene Saunders  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Greg Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**CB 8 Staff**

Michelle George  
Julia Neale

**Members Absent/Excused**

Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
James Ellis  
Ede Fox  
Priscilla Maddox  
Kwasi Mensah  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Alton Pierce  
Mary Reed  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Greg Yerman  
Deborah Young

**Elected Officials Present**

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo  
District Leader Shirley Patterson  
Judge Michael Gerstein

**Elected Official Representatives Present**

Vincent Haynes, Assem. Camara  
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy  
Dynishal Gross, Councilman Cornegy  
Toby Jaiyesimi, Assem. Mosley  
Charles Jackson, Congressoman Clarke  
Nora Daniel, Councilwoman Mealy

**Liaisons Present**

Karen Crawford, KCDA's Office

**Police Presence**

Det. Felicia Richards, PSA2  
Det. Walter Brant, PSA2

The general meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order by the Chairperson, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, at 7:30 PM.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with any necessary corrections.

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

**Concern for Independent Living** – Ms. Cynthia Solomon, Senior Program Director

Ms. Solomon welcomed everyone to the 151 Rochester Avenue site of Concern for Independent Living (CIL), a non-profit agency with 4 buildings in Brooklyn. She announced the continuing construction of their newest property at 1552 Bergen Street, a 90 unit mixed residential building that should be completed by fall of 2015.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Solomon for her welcome and congratulated CIL on their success. She then introduced Ms. Carlmais Johnson of the Civilian Complaint Review Board and asked her to say a few words.

**Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)** – Ms. Carlmais Johnson, Manager of Community Outreach

Ms. Johnson informed the public that the CCRB is a city agency that investigates allegations of misconduct against the NYPD. The unit operates under the mayor, not under the NYPD and are consequently not affiliated with Internal Affairs of the NYPD. The CCRB was created in 1993 to give civilians a place to file complaints that are investigated in a non-biased manner. She stated that the CCRB is neither an advocate for the people nor the police. Instead, the unit investigates independently and if they find the allegations to be plausible, they recommend action against the officer. Now there is an administrative prosecution unit in place that is responsible for reprimanding officers.

Police officers have a very difficult job, but there are rules and regulations for every aspect of their jobs that officers must follow. CCRB uses the police guide book to decide whether the officer acted unnecessarily. They follow a pattern called FORCE, a guide that the CCRB uses to see if the officer abused his authority. FORCE looks at the following: the amount of force used, whether the officer was abusive, or used offensive language. If you see or are a victim of an officer abusing his/her authority, using abusive language, or offensive language, they can be investigated.

She informed everyone that all NYC precinct station houses are required to take all complaints against abuse of authority seriously. If they do not want to file your complaint, you can file a complaint with the CCRB not only against the officer that you believe violated the terms of his employment, but also against the desk supervisor that refused to take your complaint. In either case, a name and badge number is essential in filing your claim. To help ensure that police station houses are actually filing complaints, Internal Affairs does integrity tests to ensure that the officers are actually taking the complaints and calling them in.

Again reiterating how difficult an officer's job is, Ms. Johnson reminded everyone to realize how important it is to recognize how their own actions affect the officer. She stated it is crucial to

remain calm, cool, and collected regardless of how you feel you are being treated. If your temper flares, it can, and often does, have a negative impact on the officer. It is safer for you to simply take down the officer's information and file a complaint.

As far as the controversial stop and frisk and people's rights, Ms. Johnson informed the Board that according to a 1976 court case, there are 4 different levels of police interaction with people on the street that range from a simple stop, to stopping and questioning, and culminating with arrest. There are two reasons an officer might question you. 1) If he/she has a credible reason or a request for information. 2) If he/she has a suspicion that criminality is taking place. She clarified an important misconception about being stopped: When you are being questioned, you are not being detained; however, when you are stopped under suspicion of criminality, you are indeed being detained. Once stopped, you can be frisked or searched. A frisk is a patting of the outer clothing, under reasonable suspicion that you are carrying a weapon. An officer can only frisk for a weapon. If the officer feels an object and believes, in a manner that he/she is able to articulate the belief and why, only then can he/she put their hand inside the pocket to search the object.

When an officer says empty your pocket, that is a search and you do not have to do it if there is no reasonable suspicion. Upon hearing this, a number of members of the community mentioned that officers without probable cause to do a search conduct searches by intimidating those being searched and making them feel obligated to give consent. Ms. Johnson stated that in that incident, you would be urged to file a CCRB complaint. Ms. Solomon asked what type of outcomes typically come from people filing complaints and she was informed that after investigation, the CCRB has a substantiation rate of 12%. Ms. Johnson clarified that the CCRB can only substantiate based on evidence and does not give credit to one side or the other. In other words, in cases of he said/she said, unless a witness to the community comes forward with information corroborating the complaint, there is no evidence. That is yet another reason why if you are witnessing what you believe to be police misconduct, you should come forward.

To file a complaint, you can call 1-800-341-CCRB or call 311 to be forwarded. Again, you can also file inside any police precinct or at the CCRB's office located at 100 Church Street in Lower Manhattan from 8AM-5PM Monday thru Friday. If you are calling outside of those hours, simply leave a message and someone will return your call. You can also file online and get additional information at [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb).

Ms. Tyus inquired into the process of the newly created administrative prosecutor. Ms. Johnson informed her that when a case gets investigated, the board reviews the case and makes a determination. If they find misconduct, a penalty is recommended. Penalties can range from a loss of vacation days, suspension, or removal depending on the severity of the charges. If the officer refuses the penalty, the case can go to trial.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Johnson for the very informative information and asked for an update from the Kings County District Attorney's (KCDA) Office.

**Kings County District Attorney's Office** – Ms. Karen Crawford, Community Affairs Unit

Ms. Crawford made a brief announcement that DA Thompson has created a new bureau called Citizens Action. The bureau was designed to deal with community issues. If you have any issues, complaints, or ideas, call 718-250-2340.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Crawford for her announcement and asked Councilwoman Cumbo for an update on the 35<sup>th</sup> Council District.

### **Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo**

Councilwoman Cumbo thanked Ms. Granville for the opportunity to speak. She announced that she was named chairperson of the Women's Issues Committee in the City Council. She announced that March is Women's History Month and women continue to make great strides in history. It is an incredible time in New York City, with 15 women in the City Council, a female Council Speaker, and the first female Public Advocate in the City's history. She also announced that she sits on the Higher Education, Public Housing, Youth, and Finance committees.

Her new District office is opening on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 Hanson Place, Downtown Brooklyn. She regretfully informed the Board that she was unable to secure a space at 1000 Dean Street because the building had not secured its Certificate of Occupancy in time.

There are a lot of new initiatives in the city council, many of which have to do with women's issues and many others. She thanked the district office of Community Board No. 8 for the e-blast information it sends out, especially the e-blast promoting the discretionary funds event that subsequently was well attended. She reminded everyone that March 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for non-profits to apply for discretionary funds.

She announced a Women's History Month celebration on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Medgar Evers College from 8AM to 5 PM. Also at Medgar Evers College on March 27, 2014 from 6-8 PM will be a Vision Zero Town Hall and informational meeting.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilwoman Cumbo for her update and announcements and opened the Public Hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget for FY 2015.

### **Public Hearing on the FY 2015 Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Requests**

The agency responses to each request was read by Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Ms. Ethel Tyus, and Mr. Robert Witherwax.

Ms. Albritton pointed out that for Expense request No. 16, the response does not correspond to the request. Other members pointed out a few similar oddities.

Ms. S. Bernardine stated that in comparing this year's responses to previous years, it seems that we are getting the same responses. She also pointed out that if the parks and playgrounds were updated and parents felt them to be safe, some of the funds to the programs in NYC Fit could be reduced. In addition, it would greatly enhance the community. Mr. Atkins responded to her observation and suggestion and stated that the NYC Parks department relies on private funding sources for parks and the wealthier neighborhoods are getting the funds they need but the poorer are not. Ms. Tyus stated that Mr. Atkin's point was misunderstood, especially considering that the larger parks in the city have been funded by large nonprofit advocacy groups, i.e., The Central Park Conservancy and The Prospect Park Conservancy. Another resident also stated that

it is not always a matter of community wealth, but rather the budget cuts that each agency has been forced to endure the last decade or so.

After each item and response was read, Ms. Granville reminded everyone that the vote is on whether or not we accept the agency responses to the requests that were submitted in September. If you agree with the responses, vote no. If you disagree with the responses, vote yes. The letter we send to the Office of Management and Budget will reflect the Board's vote. She then made a motion to deny the agency responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Requests. The motion was seconded by Ms. Langhorne and carried with a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Ms. Granville closed the Public Hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget for FY 2015 and asked for a report from the following committees:

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

The Aging/Health and Human Services met on Monday, March 3, 2014 at CNR. Present was Kwasi Mensah. In the minutes submitted to the District office, Mr. Mensah stated that prior to the meeting, he spoke with Kim Atkins of *Improv II, Inc.* and *V.I.P. Services & Housing*, who is now searching for alternative sites in the Prospect Heights area for their programs since the St. Mary's site was recently sold. She informed him that she would reach out in the near future with updates.

The next meeting of the Aging/Health and Human Services Committee will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue.

**Career Building** – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair

The Career Building Committee did not meet in the month of March. Please call the Community Board office to see if the regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held prior to attending.

**Economic Development** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at CNR. The committee continues to plan for its first Economic Forum on April 24, 2014 to be held at 1000 Dean Street. Part of the forum is going to focus on early financial literacy training for kids. More kids need to be encouraged to become business owners as more businesses equal more tax revenue for the community.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Environment/Sanitation Committee did not meet for the month of February. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at CNR. Present were Akosua Albritton, LeeAnn Banks, Princess Benn-James, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Curtis Harris, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Sharon Wedderburn, Dian Duke, Jonathan Berman, Daniel Malator, Alison Kelley, Victoria Sottile, Mohamad Abdou, and Marie Mameri. The committee discussed the following:

**1. 1372 Dean St - Crown Heights North Historic District – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for Roof Bulkhead Addition and Expansion of Rear Extension to Full Width**

Mr. Richard Goodstein, RA of nC2 Architecture LLC presented a proposal to add a roof bulkhead and expand the rear extension to full width at 1372 Dean Street between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. The site is a Romanesque Revival style three-story building designed by Allen & Kenway built c. 1888 featuring a round corner tower crowned by a slate-shingle-covered conical roof, a brick façade with brownstone sillcourses and beltcourses, and gabled dormer.

The new owner is converting the building from a five-family to a four-family and plans to add a rear deck for each unit to provide them with outdoor space. The required exhausts will be positioned on the party wall side of the semi-attached building. The rooftop HVAC equipment and compressors will be minimally visible from the street. The rear extension will be expanded from a partial width of the building to the full width and will remain at one story.

The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter acknowledging the application. A hearing on this application will be scheduled at LPC at a later date. The committee voted 10 in favor, one opposed, with three abstentions to support the application. Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 3 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

In addition, Ms. Tyus stated that Landowner Mohamed Abdul attended the meeting to consult with the community on the highest and best use to which he can put his property –two vacant 16' by 110' lots at 857/859 Dean Street between Classon and Grand Avenues. 859 Dean St was once used as a metal work/welding shop. Mr. Abdul is considering constructing medical offices on the ground floor with four stories comprising eight rental units, two of which would be affordable. Committee members were reluctant to make a recommendation given that the M1-1 Zone Subcommittee has not yet submitted a formal proposition statement to the full committee. The Committee recommended he return in September when a formal position will be in place.

Finally, The next Crown Heights North Association meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:45 PM at St Gregory's Church, St Johns Pl at Brooklyn Ave. SHPO will provide detailed information on the current eligibility for State Preservation Tax Credits and the pending eligibility for National Register tax credits.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULUPR Committee will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**M1-1 Subcommittee** – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The M1-1 Zone subcommittee met on February 24, 2014 at CNR. Present were Ethel Tyus, Diana Foster, Paula Crespo, James Ellis, Jonathan Butler, Gib Veconi, Marc Aggler, Jonathan Berman, Dan Matthew, Susan Boyle, Benton Brown, Rodney Seymour, and Earl Drummond.

The committee continued exploratory discussions with area stakeholders on the best approach to formulate consistent and viable position for responding to requests for zoning variances to encourage any residential development occurring there to include affordable housing to a substantial degree. The target area is the six block area bounded by Grand Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Franklin Avenue, and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142).

The next meeting of the M1-1 committee is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at St. John's Recreation Center. Ms. Andrews informed the public that the St. John's Day Camp signup date recently concluded on March 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the recreation center has 15 fitness programs available to members.

The Annual Awareness Day will be on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee is trying to expand the day and get additional things like the blood mobile to come out.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 6 PM at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. All are invited to attend.

**Public Safety** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair; Mr. Desmond Atkins, Co-Chair

The Public Safety committee met on Monday, February 24, 2014 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Mr. Atkins gave the report for the committee, stating that crime is increasing in the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, especially in burglaries and grand larceny auto. People are advised to secure their cars and not to walk with electronics in hand. Report any crime because if it is not reported, it has not happened in the eyes of the police.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 6 PM at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All re invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis and Mr. Alton Pierce, Co-Chairs

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, March 3, 2014 at CNR. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. Movapes, 1413 Bedford Avenue (Prospect/St. Marks) -- Beer/Wine
  - i. E-cigarette and vaping retail store and on-premises consumption
  - ii. Seating for 14 indoors, and 12 outdoors (backyard)
  - iii. Hours are daily starting at noon, closing at 8 PM on Sun, 10 PM Mon-Thu, and 11 PM Fri & Sat
  - iv. Food: light, locally sourced sandwiches

There were a few concerns raised by the committee and residents in attendance. These concerns included ensuring that alcohol was not served to anyone under the age of 21, that the proprietor ensure that at least 60% of his revenue must come from tobacco products to permit indoor smoking, and the potential for noise.

There were no police objections to the application and the committee voted to support the beer and wine application with the following conditions and hopes that the full Board support its recommendation:

- a. No outdoor amplified sound**
- b. Use of soft, noise abating materials for all backyard surfaces**
- c. Hours of Backyard operation same as for establishment**

Mr. Witherwax clarified that the space only sold electronic cigarettes and that is no actual tobacco being consumed in the space. Mr. Bunkeddeko asked if the policy is currently BYOB and was informed by the owner that it is not, and that in the future, the business will primarily be retail sale of vapor products. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke. There were 14 in favor, 13 opposed, with 5 abstentions. Due to the fact that the number of no votes and abstentions were more than the number of yes votes recorded, the item did not pass.

The committee also voted to approve the beer/wine renewal application for Beny's Epicerie, 567 Vanderbilt (Pacific/Dean). A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the committee's recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next SLAC meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Transportation** – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at CNR. Present were Dr. Frederick Monderson, Robert Witherwax, Holly Fuchs, Chris McNally, Meredith Staton, Jacqueline Wells, Carl Leighty, Hayes Lord, Inbar Kishon, Ronda Messer, Greg Todd, Alan Gerber, Constance Nugent Miller, J. Anthony Holbert, Rohon A. Williams, and David Christini.

A slide presentation was made regarding a proposed bike corral in front of Ideya Brooklyn located at 636 Carlton Avenue, at the triangle of Carlton, Park Place, and Flatbush Avenue. NYC so far has 31 bike corrals, which are installed at the good will and request of a person or place who agrees to take responsibility for maintaining the cleanliness of the corral. Each corral consists of sufficient parking for 8-10 bikes, and the corral itself is on the street, taking the place of one (1) parking spot. The proposed one for Ideya has the advantage of

eliminating a corner parking spot that has obstructed the view of bikes and cars. The Ideya bike corral is supported by the North Flatbush BID and the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC). Another informational session on the corral will be held at the next Transportation Committee meeting before the full Board votes on it.

Additionally, the committee announced that there will be an informational meeting regarding a traffic calming study for Franklin Avenue on April 2, 2014. Fliers will be distributed to the community when the details are finalized. Finally, the committee announced changes to the co-naming policies of the Board to make them more stringent and in line with what the City Council expects.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center 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 5, 2014 at CNR. Present were Angeli Rasbury, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Princess Benn-James, Diana Foster, and Akosua Albritton.

The committee discussed the legal mood altering substances known as K-2 or Spice and Bath Salts. K-2 or Spice are doctored vegetable material that may look like dried finely cut parsley, sometimes flecked with colored--magenta, red, blue, green--pieces. K-2 or Spice is marketed as potpourri, aromatherapy, or incense. What it contains are chemical equivalents to marijuana's THC. The name Spice is used because it has a nice smell. K-2 is sold at corner stores for \$5 for in 4 and 5 gram foil bags.

The other product marketed as "Bath Salts" is crushed and inhaled through the nostrils or smoked. Its effect is similar to methamphetamine. K-2 and Bath Salts activate pleasure centers in the brain that bring on a state of euphoria. They are addictive and "cheap highs". Most committee members stated they had no knowledge of these products. Mrs. Benn-James questioned whether particular communities were targeted for its sale. She found that the online Yellow Pages listed places to purchase it throughout any given borough. You may visit [www.yelp.com/Brooklyn-ny/k2-spice](http://www.yelp.com/Brooklyn-ny/k2-spice) for your edification. Further the DEA has much information on these substances. Visit <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr112410.html> for more information.

The next Youth/Family Services Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 6:30 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and asked for an update from the following elected official representatives:

**Mr. Jim Vogel** from Senator Montgomery's office announced that Ms. Oton, Chair of the CB 8 Economic Development Committee, attended the Senator's first industrial waterfront development workshop. The overall idea behind the industrial development plan is to preserve the manufacturing zones across the city, primarily the 25<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District for preservation and creation of jobs. Over the past 12 years, the city has seen the manufacturing zones changed

to luxury housing and schools via zoning variances approved by the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). Senator Montgomery is trying to create a valid plan of action to encourage the BSA to stop approving variances and instead preserve the space for its intended purpose. As more meetings are planned, the District office will be notified so that the public can participate in the planning phase.

**Ms. Nora Daniel** from Councilwoman Mealy's office announced that the Councilwoman is offering free tax preparation for low income residents at St. John's Bread of Life located at 790 Lexington Avenue on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Councilwoman is hosting a lien sale outreach event on March 26<sup>th</sup> to help ensure that those on the lien sale list do not lose the title to their property.

**Ms. Dynishal Gross** from Councilman Cornegy's office announced that his district office is opening March 14<sup>th</sup> in Restoration Plaza, 1369 Fulton Street, Suite 500. There will be an open house from 1-4 PM. Also, Councilman Cornegy is sponsoring a targeted lien sale event for churches and non profits. Comptroller's office will be in attendance in addition to the city agencies. For more information on the targeted lien sale outreach event, call the district office at 718-919-0740.

Ms. Gross also announced that Councilman Cornegy introduced his first piece of legislation yesterday that deals with addressing school safety issues in relation to the 4 year old that walked out of school unnoticed. The bill would require audible alarms on all doors.

Ms. Granville thanked the representatives for their updates and opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Samantha Bernardine announced that she went to Albany on behalf of Community School District 17 two weeks ago to speak on community education needs in the schools. District 17 has been one of the hardest hit districts as far as co-locations are concerned, and there was a hearing last Saturday for parents to testify against co-locations. In addition, Common Core standards are being instituted throughout the nation, and NYC is one of the first areas to institute it. Finally, if you have a 4 year old, now is the time to register for Pre-K.

Ms. Emily Carol of Kipling Elementary School (Sterling Place between Troy and Albany Avenues, in the Maggie Walker building) stated that Kipling just started accepting applications for Kindergarten and will add a grade each year. While she understands the outcry against charter schools and co-locations, she stated that she believed there should be as many options for families for education as possible. Charter Schools are such an option.

Mr. Gerard Miller of Neighborhood Housing Services of Bed Stuy stated that the organization has 3 offices in Brooklyn. There will be a certified homebuyers education class this Saturday from 8:30-4 PM that is part of HPD homebuyer assistance program. To participate, there is a household fee of \$125. NHS also offers foreclosure intervention services as well as a home maintenance training program that features a 3 week hands-on training course for a fee of \$175 that starts March 29<sup>th</sup>. The course teaches you how to maintain your home on your own and be knowledgeable on what is needed to negotiate if you decide to hire someone to do the work for you.

Ms. Albritton stated that she participated in a rally sponsored by Interfaith Clergy on behalf of SUNY Downstate. The organization is fighting the move to convert Downstate from a public facility to a private one. SUNY Downstate is vital to the community and is a renowned teaching hospital that provides great care. If you are concerned about getting quality healthcare and having places that are near you, you have to speak out and participate.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and adjourned the meeting at 9:30. The next meeting of Community Board No. 8 will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

### **GUESTS**

Ingrid David  
Frank Esquilin  
Leroy Reid  
Dorothy Bembry-Guet  
Shirley Mondesir  
Adam Schwartz  
Christine White  
Elizabeth Caholu  
A. Gordon  
Y. Huang  
Korin Tangtrakal  
Mary Galloway  
Alex Baker  
Chea Hawkins  
Zach Schwombok  
Gerard Miller  
Wayne Devonish  
Celeste Farmer  
Mahayana Landowne  
Jacqueline Welch