

**Community Board No. 8  
Calvary Community Church  
1575 St. John's Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**May 10, 2012**

**Members Present**

Akosua Albritton  
Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Samantha Bernadine  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Helen Coley  
Renaye Cuyler  
James Ellis  
Diana Foster  
Ede Fox  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Curtis Harris  
Doris Heriveaux  
XeerXeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Priscilla Maddox  
Robert Matthews  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Frederick Monderson  
Atim oton  
Alton Pierce  
Robert Puca  
Mary Reed  
Marlene Saunders  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Launa Thomas-Bullock  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**Members Absent**

Kim Albert  
Viloa Bing  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
Angelina Pinto  
Cy Richardson  
Patricia Scantlebury  
William Suggs  
Deborah Young

**Elected Officials Present**

Councilman Al Vann, 36<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Shirley Patterson, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Leader

**Elected Official's Representatives**

J. Markowicz, Assemblywoman Robinson's Office  
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke's Office  
Simone Hawkins, Councilwoman James's Office  
Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery's Office

**Liaisons Present**

Sophia Jones, Bklyn Boro Pres. Office  
Andrea Phillips-Merriman, Brooklyn  
Neighborhood Improvement Association

**CB Staff Present**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Associate  
Valerie Hodges-Mitchell, Comm. Service Aide

**FOREST CITY RATNER COMPANIES – Ms. Ashley Cotton**  
**BROOKLYN EVENTS CENTER – Mr. David Anderson**

Ms. Cotton announced that there will be 2000 jobs created by the Barclays Arena opening. FCRC has launched an outreach initiative to fill the positions, and has agreed to seek to hire residents from Community Boards 2, 3, 6, 8 and graduates of the BUILD training program, as well as NYCHA residents. Some of these were stipulated in the Community Benefits Agreement. Every job posting will be posted online on multiple sources. In addition, multiple job fairs, held at different times of the day, will be held to reach a wider array of people. Ms. Cotton stressed that there is a hiring process that includes a written application and interviews, and that employment is contingent on a background check and drug test. All hiring is done on a case by case basis to avoid discriminating against an individual that may have made a mistake in his/her youth.

The arena operations will be carried out by two entities: The Brooklyn Events Center (BEC) and Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). Levy Restaurants will run all food services in the arena. AEG currently also operates the Staples Center in Los Angeles. FCRC will work in partnership with Small Business Services (SBS), Workforce 1 and New York City Housing Authority.

As part of the arena project, \$558 million has been spent on construction projects. 16% of contracts have gone to minority owned companies and another 16% to women owned companies. This breakdown shows the willingness of FCRC to work with the local community. In addition, of the almost 600 construction workers presently working on the arena construction, 442 workers are from New York City and 186 are Brooklyn residents.

Responding to a question about full time employment, Ms. Cotton announced that FCRC/BEC will hire 20 full time employees and 1 part-time employee. AEG will hire 1000 part-time employees and 60 full time, and Levy Restaurants will hire 900 part time employees and 25 full time. The number of people working will depend on the event. All hires will be trained by the Disney Institute.

The hourly wages are competitive with the local market and be determined by a collective bargaining agreement. Employment will be unionized. A report on resident hiring will be completed quarterly.

Dr. Monderson asked what the age range of employees would be. He was informed that age discrimination will not be an issue and that hires will range from all ages. Mr. Anderson chimed in, stating that all hires would be of legal working age for New York State. When asked if SYEP employees would be hired, Mr. Anderson stated that jobs are event driven and not necessarily good for SYEP. There will, however, be internships offered.

When asked about security, Mr. Anderson stated that there would be 24 hour in-house security offered, and many jobs will be available in that field. Responding to a resident's question of who will be managing security, Mr. Anderson stated that there is a security manager who is a former New York City Police Officer. In addition, there will be support from the NYPD during large events. Access to security jobs will come from specific security only job fairs.

Mr. Ellis asked if there were any programs for career-minded employees to get people from entry level positions to management positions. He was informed that AEG does train some of the part-time employees and does promote from within because it is a very large company that manages a number of facilities.

Mr. Harris stated that since the application process begins online, are there any mechanisms in place to help those that do not have access to the internet to view the jobs. He was informed that all positions are also routed through elected officials' offices and Community Boards and will be advertised via job fairs, and will be given to the workforce center.

Ms. Oton asked if FCRC will do outreach with some of the high schools in the priority community boards as there are many students that will not go directly to college and will seek employment first. Ms. Cotton stated that that particular idea was not considered, but that she would love to follow up on the suggestion.

Ms. Banks asked if FCRC will engage in any public service announcements or print newspaper ads for the jobs that are available. She was informed by Ms. Cotton that PSA's are being debated at the present time. She further clarified by stating that hopefully by getting around on foot and by submitting the information to the community boards, elected officials, and on the web, the information will be dispensed to everyone. Mr. Atkins suggested that FCRC use BCAT cable TV to reach out to Brooklyn residents.

A community resident asked what the process is to determine community board residency. He was informed that a background check will be done and that ID and proof of residency is required.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Cotton and Mr. Anderson as well as the other members of FCRC and BEC for the information. She then asked for an update from Councilman Albert Vann.

### **36<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL DISTRICT – Councilman Albert Vann**

Councilman Vann announced the New York City Council Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus is sponsoring an Employment and Small Business Opportunities Expo on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 11 AM to 2 PM at New Balance Track and Field Center, Fort Washington Armory at W. 168<sup>th</sup> Street (216 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY). Featured events include power hour sessions on NYC's Training Grant Program; Resume Review and Job Matching in High Growth; Small Business Fundamentals; Developing a Business Plan; Financing Facts and Fictions; and Doing Business with Government and Tips for Successful Bidding. Registration forms are due May 17, 2012. For more information please call 718-919-0642.

Councilman Vann directed everyone's attention to his newsletter, the City Council Round-up article on subsidies. He stated that when the City gives out a million dollar plus subsidy, there is a requirement to pay a living wage of \$10+ an hour.

The Executive Budget for FY 2013 has been presented to the Council. The new fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and the budget will be between \$68 and \$69 billion. That amount needs to be taken in via taxes and other revenues. There are many major cuts proposed and PEG (proposals to eliminate the gaps) ensues. Presently, Mayor Bloomberg has baselined the budget for all 59 Community Boards and there will be no cuts. However, slated to be cut in the FY 2013 budget are out of school time programs. The budget proposal only includes 28 thousand slots, which is reduced from 50+ thousand. Fewer organizations will get funding.

There are also reductions to child care funding, and this marks the 5<sup>th</sup> time that the child care budget is being cut. The Council had to restore \$50 million. 50% of early childhood programs have been cut

with drastic impacts on working mothers. The City Council has entered into negotiations to reduce the cuts. It has been able in the past to reduce some of the cuts and offset them.

Councilman Vann stated that May 17, 2012 is the last day to pay municipal debts. Until then, homeowners can make arrangements for a payment plan to avoid the lien sale. In a lien sale, the property is not sold, but rather, the debt is. Homeowners need to take advantage of the payment plan before the lien sale. Many people are exempt from the lien sale and may not have knowledge of it. Seniors, the disabled, and veterans are all exempt. If you think you should not be on the lien sale list, contact his office at 718-919-0742 prior to the 17<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, the Councilman informed the Board of the Responsible Banking Act (RBA). He stated that the city designates a number of banks that it will deposit its money into. The RBA seeks to ensure that the designated banks take care of the community by providing loans to small businesses, providing low interest loans, and the like. There is a need to assess how the banks are meeting the needs of the community and the RBA calls for bank information to be provided to agency heads. If the banks are found to be lacking in community response, then the impetus will exist to not give them the city's money. The RBA is landmark legislation for the betterment of the community.

Ms. Langhorne asked if there was a report to show how much money banks have given out. She was informed that the RBA would do that. It will do an assessment of community needs and how banks respond to them.

Mr. Staton inquired about the status of redistricting and was informed that redistricting always occurs after each census. The goal of many legislators is to ensure that the district members are equal, and that each district reflects the voting population of that community.

Dr. Monderson inquired where the restored funds are obtained from. He was informed that there are ways of finding money in the budget. It is a very intricate game and politicians have to understand it. Luckily, in NYC, there are many intelligent councilmembers, led by the astute Speaker Quinn. The leverage that councilmembers have is that they have to vote on the budget and approve it, but it has to be done within the confines of what the Mayor dictates that amount to be.

Ms. James stated that most of the cuts seem to affect minorities and the poor the most. She asked why the budget always has to be balanced on the backs of the most needy. She was informed that her point is well known. Low-income people have always been discriminated against. That is one of the primary reasons why the caucus exists—to try to ensure fairness. In politics, you often do not get things because you need them; you get them because you demand it. Part of the problem is that a large number of people with the greatest need do not vote. To change the system you need to use the power that you have, which is the power of the vote.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilman Vann and the City Council for restoring funds to Community Boards citywide. She thanked him for attending and asked for a report from the following committees:

**AGING/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – Ms. Marlene Saunders, Chair**

The Aging/Health & Human Services Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm.

In addition to the Chair Marlene Saunders, present were: Dr. Flize Bryan, Renaye Cuyler, Constance Lesold, Adelaide Miller.

The Health Committee is still working and petitioning for Interfaith Hospital. In addition to the slated closure of Interfaith Hospital, other hospitals are in the process of merging together. The Health Committee is asking for community support in getting the community involved. Mr. Vogel from Senator Montgomery's office stated that the Senator's office is the only elected official's office that has been represented at each of the hospital meetings. He urged those present to submit their concerns over hospital closures and mergers thru their elected officials. Call the office at 718-643-6140 to submit your concerns.

The next Aging/Health Committee meeting will be held Monday, June 4, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm.

In addition to the Chair Priscilla Maddox, present were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Danielle Carter, Renaye Cuyler, James Ellis, Nicole Fix, Fred Frazier, Kempton Mooney, Jackee Namwila, Debra Nussbaum, Atim Oton, Danae Oratowski, Alton Pierce, Rebecca Ramirez, Delissa Reynolds, Stacey Sheffey, Al Taylor, Mark Thurton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi and Amy Verebay. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. The proprietor of Colola Inc., located at 791-A Washington Avenue (between St. John's and Lincoln Places) is seeking a beer and wine license for his establishment that will operate from Noon to 11 PM Sundays, 11 AM to 11 PM Monday thru Thursday, and 11 AM to 11:30 PM Friday and Saturday. Colola will feature 12 tables and 58 seats and will hire 5 individuals. There will be closed circuit television cameras throughout the establishment. The committee voted to support Colola's beer and wine license and moves that the full Board support its recommendation. Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee's recommendation to support this application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a vote of 32 in favor, 4 opposed, with 2 abstentions to support Colola's beer and wine application.
2. The proprietor of Gran Castillo located at 345 Flatbush Avenue (between Carlton Avenue and Park Place) is seeking a beer and wine license for his establishment that will operate 8 Am to 11 PM daily. Gran Castillo has 15 tables with 60 seats and has been operating in its current space for about 30 years. The committee voted to support Gran Castillo's beer and wine license and moves that the full Board support its recommendation. Mr. Puca commended the restaurant for staying in the community for so long and stated that he hopes more business such as Gran Castillo don't get pushed out of the community. A motion to support the application was made by Mr. Atkins and seconded by Mr. Staton. It carried with a final tally of 33 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.
3. The proprietor of Milk River Café at 960 Atlantic Avenue (between Grand and Classon Avenues) made a favorable presentation for her establishment that is seeking a full liquor

license. Milk River is a two-floor establishment that will have a separate bar space with 10 seats each on the first and second floors, 35 tables on the first floor, and 17 tables on the second floor. There will be about 175 total seats in the establishment. Milk River hopes to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor as a private space for events and will feature live music on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The plan is to bring the Blue Note jazz vibe to Brooklyn. It will operate from 11 AM to 1 AM on Sunday, 11 AM to 3 AM Monday thru Thursday, and 11 AM to 4 AM Friday and Saturday.

Milk River will have 3-4 licensed security officers depending on the event and 20 total people employed. The committee believed that the establishment would bring life to an otherwise desolate strip on Atlantic Avenue. The proprietor, to combat parking woes, stated that she is seeking an arrangement with the parking garage on the corner of Grand and Atlantic Avenues for patrons. There will be wine bottle service in the establishment. The committee voted to support the liquor license application with the following conditions and moves that the full Board supports its recommendation: 1) that there is no liquor bottle service available, only wine. 2) That adequate outdoor security is provided on event nights. 3) A second license to be obtained from the State Liquor Authority for the second floor space.

Ms. Bernardine asked how the business was planning to advertise employment opportunities in the District. She was informed that Milk River was working with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and would notify the Community Board when an opportunity was available. Dr. Monderson made a motion to support the committee's recommendation with the 3 stipulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a vote of 34 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

4. The proprietors of 606 R&D located at 606 Vanderbilt Avenue (between St. Marks and Prospect Places) made a favorable presentation for their Alteration application to use their backyard space. 606 R&D is seeking to operate their backyard space between 9 AM and 10 PM Monday thru Saturday and 9 AM thru 9 PM on Sunday. The space will feature 26 seats. As part of noise attenuation measures, the proprietors are planting trees and shrubs and plan to get a water fountain for the space. While the proprietors presented the committee with the required number of letters supporting their venture, there were a number of letters in opposition. Some of the concerns raised in the letters of opposition were the noise produced during the operating hours and the inability of nearby residents to fully enjoy their patio spaces and gardens with the restaurant being fully utilized.

Members of the committee did not believe it was proper to deny the application based on possible noise levels. The general consensus was that as we live in the city and not the country, there will always be noise. In addition, representatives from the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council supported the plan, stating that it is exactly the type of restaurant needed on Vanderbilt Avenue and that there are many benefits with minimal impact on the community. The proprietors have been more than accommodating, agreeing to the demands of the committee and restricting their backyard hours on their own accord. As a result, the committee voted to support the application with the stipulation that the backyard space close promptly at the presented times and moves that the full Board supports its recommendation.

A number of people inquired about other forms of support or opposition received regarding the venture. They were informed that while over 10 letters in opposition had been received, a

petition with over 100 signatures was received, multiple support letters from residents, PHNCD supported them, as well as the Vanderbilt Avenue Merchants District. Mr. Witherwax noted that the complaints were based on potential noise and not actual noise and we must keep this in mind. He then made a motion to support the committee's recommendation to support the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried a vote of 31 in favor, 4 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

5. Finally, the committee discussed the following renewal applications:

1. Achelos Corp., 706 Washington Avenue/full license (St. Marks/Prospect)
2. Udom Thai Restaurant and Bar, 661 Washington Avenue/beer & wine license (corner St. Marks)
3. Abby's Level Inc., 1413 Bedford Avenue/beer & wine license (St. Marks/Prospect)
4. Haru Sushi N Thai, 385 Flatbush Avenue/beer & wine license (corner Sterling)

The committee voted in support of each of the 4 applications and moves that the full Board support its recommendation. Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried a vote of 29 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

Also discussed were liquor license applications for Rosco's Pizzeria located at 685 Franklin Avenue and 780 Washington Avenue LLC located at 780 Washington Avenue. These two items were tabled pending further information and will be brought up again at the June meeting. Finally, the alteration application for Calf BK located at 611 Vanderbilt Avenue was tabled pending an investigation into allegations of inappropriate contact. The application will be discussed at the June meeting.

In addition to the liquor license applications, the committee also discussed the Catalyst Network Foundation (CNF), which is working to launch the veteran portion of the project. In addition, CNF is doing a summer fellowship with workshops for career building. 50 applicants will be pared down to 15 for the fellowship. The website, [www.catalyst-network.org](http://www.catalyst-network.org), is up and running and very interactive. The veterans' initiative has even applied for a grant and Columbia Law Business School has become one of the growing array of partners with CNF.

The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

#### **EDUCATION – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair**

The Education Committee met on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm but did not have any action items.

Present at the Education Committee meeting were: Claudette Agard, Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Zakiyah Ansari, Melina Bernadine, Samantha Bernadine, Roderick Daley, Anthonine Pierre, Duke Saunders, Audrey Taitt-Hall and Natasha Welsh.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

### **ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION – Ms. Ede Fox, Chair**

The Environment/Sanitation committee met Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm.

In addition to the Chair Ede Fox, present were: Helen Coley and Greg Todd.

The Environment/Sanitation Committee is still working to organize their annual forum. This forum will focus on solid waste management: new technologies, ways to reduce it and opportunities to create jobs around green waste management strategies. The possible panelists may include: Reps from Newtown Creek facility, Ward's Island Green Roofers, and ConEd. The tentative date for the forum is Saturday, October 13, 2012. Time and location will be announced at a later date.

Ms. Fox announced that she recently attended a Sanitation hearing on composting throughout the city. Food waste can be composted instead of carted to landfills. Mr. Atkins asked if there was any news on bringing compost back to Starrett City because there is no distribution center in Brooklyn. People have to go to the Bronx or Staten Island to get compost. He was informed that there was no news on this project.

There will be a clean-up on Washington Avenue on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed, for more information, visit [www.happywashington.org](http://www.happywashington.org).

The next Environment/Sanitation Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

### **FIRE/SAFETY – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair**

The Fire/Safety Committee met May 9, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY but had no action items.

Mr. Witherwax expressed the importance of fire safety is and encouraged the community to attend the Fire/Safety committee meetings.

The next Fire/Safety committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 6:30pm at the Center for Nursing and rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30PM. He reminded everyone to keep in mind that fire safety is important to all of us.

### **HOUSING/ULURP – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair**

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 6:30pm.

In addition to the Chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Princess Benn-James, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Curtis Harris, Gregory Lutfey, Andrea Phillips-Merriman, Stacey Sheffey, Mahart Muradov, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus and Vilma Zuniga.

The committee discussed a Landmarks Preservation Commission application for 281-283 Flatbush Ave. in the Prospect Heights Historic District. The application, made by Owner Gregory Lutfey and his commercial tenant, Marat Muradov of Park Slope Hair Styling, is for approval to install external security gates on the newly redesigned storefront. According to the LPC designation report, the building is a brick and terra cotta Renaissance Revival tenement with storefront on Flatbush Avenue between St. Marks Ave. and Prospect Pl. and was designed by Frank Keith Irving c.1888.

As part of the renovation project, Mr. Muradov removed the previously existing security gates and his plans were submitted to LPC without security gates. The storefront glass has since been cracked by vandals, although no merchandise was stolen. Mr. Muradov indicated that he had expended approximately \$100,000 for an all new interior and storefront. The applicant also indicated that retrofitting security gates compliant with LPC's rules would cost approximately \$7,000 to \$10,000. A representative of PHNDC reported that in anticipation of increased security requirements for arena events, discussions are underway with the North Flatbush Ave. BID, and the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Precincts about vandals breaking windows along Flatbush Ave.

The Committee pointed out to the applicants that sections 8-10 and 8-11 of LPC's rules permitted roll-down security gates installed with interior housing and tracks. The Committee opined that the estimated cost of a rule-compliant retrofit for the security gates did not appear to be a hardship. A PHNDC representative moved that the Committee recommend that the owner and proprietor work with LPC and owner's architect to find a mutually satisfactory solution that complies with LPC's rules. Based on the owner's ability to install a security gate compliant LPC's rules, the committee voted 14 in favor with one abstention to recommend that the applicants comply with LPC's rules regarding security gates for new storefronts and not approve an exception to those rules, and hopes that the full Board will do the same.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee's recommendation that the Landmarks preservation Commission not approve an exception and that the applicant comply with LPC's guidelines. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the 421-a Exemption Applications for 1270-1294 St Marks Ave and 1477-1499 Prospect Pl. between Rochester and Buffalo Aves. Mr. Michael Netanel, owner of these two grandfathered developments consisting of 12 buildings each with approximately 36 apartments per development, did not appear to discuss his projects. It was noted that prior to 12/2007, the law permitted the developer to omit both on-site affordable housing and provisions for off-street parking for this project. Having purchased the project purportedly after initial approvals were granted, the owner is choosing to execute the plan under the former statute rather than provide the on-site affordable units and off-street parking required under the current statute. His application shows that he is attesting to HPD that he has provided notice of his application to the Community Board. The Committee agreed to notify HPD that the applicant never appeared to discuss his project and that the Board did not waive its right to notice of the applicant's intentions and that the applicant is apparently not interested in the Community Board's opinion of his project.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are encouraged to attend.

## **PARKS & RECREATION – Ms. Glinda Andrews; Chair**

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6:00pm but did not have any action items.

Ms. Andrews announced their Community Awareness Day which will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at St. John's Recreation Center. The Committee will accept completed registration forms for Community Awareness Day until May 31, 2012. She urged everyone to come out and participate in this event.

Ms. Andrews announced that Partnerships for Parks and Friends of Brower Park are hosting its My Park Day 2012 on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 4 PM at Brower Park (Kingston Avenue and Prospect Place). If you have any questions, please contact [friendsofbrowerpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrowerpark@gmail.com).

Friends of Underhill Playground (Underhill Avenue between Park and Prospect Places) will host their It's My Park Day at 10 AM on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. They will engage in beautification and cleanup projects at Underhill Playground. Volunteers will work in groups on service activities to improve the park. After completing the service project, all children can enjoy light refreshments. Call 646-261-1030 or email [cynthiayahia@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiayahia@gmail.com) for more information.

The Super Block Association of St. Marks Avenue will host a beautification and clean-up project at St. Marks Children's Playground (across from 943 St. Marks Avenue between Albany and Troy Avenues) at 10 AM on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. High School students can earn community service credits. Call 347-351-5363 for more information.

Ms. Saunders stated that seniors were not allowed to sit in Underhill Playground without a child. She was informed that it is a city rule that adults cannot be in a playground without children to prevent predators. Ms. Lesold stated that the Board should seek to have the law amended for Underhill Playground, especially considering the fact that there is no senior center in Prospect Heights and subsequently no place for seniors to go to relax. Parks and playgrounds should not be exclusionary and only for certain people.

The next Parks Committee meeting will be Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at the St. John's Recreation Center, 1251 Prospect Place-1<sup>st</sup> Floor Library. All are invited to attend.

## **POLICE – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair**

The Police Committee met on Monday, April 16, 2012 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:00pm. In addition to the Chair Shalawn Langhorne, present were: Jessica A., Kim Albert, Elnora Altman, Maurice Anthony, Dorothy Jean Bembry-Guet, Willard Hawkins, Princess Benn James, Beverley Brody, Cedric Callender, Judith Campbell, Lorraine Clarke, Helen Coley, Akedah Fulcher, Curtis Harris, Phil Hawkins, Xeerxeema Jordan, Shirley Mondesir, Samantha Ridge and Erick Thomas.

There were some concerns raised about Street Activity Permits being denied by the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Residents would like to know if their reasons for denial are valid. The District Manager has scheduled a meeting with the Commanding Officer to discuss the process.

In addition, the Chair reported that she met with Mayor Bloomberg regarding “Stop and Frisk” and that she will meet with Police Commissioner Kelly in a few weeks regarding the same thing. Stop and Frisk is a very dangerous entity in the community because it serves to alienate those that live in the community from those that are supposed to be protecting it. It is another form of racial profiling whose negatives far outweigh the positive impacts.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2012 at 6:00pm. The location will be announced at a later date. All are invited to attend.

### **TRANSPORTATION – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson**

The Transportation Committee held a joint meeting with Brooklyn Community Board #6 on Tuesday, April 19, 2012 at One Prospect Place West, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm.

In addition to the Chair Dr. Frederick Monderson, present were: Alfred Chiodo, Holly Fuchs, Nizjoni Granville, Xeerxeema Jordan, Chris McNally, Anthony Mohen, Robert Puca, Josefina Sanfelio, Jacqueline Wells, Adam Wiesehan, and Robert Witherwax.

The committees discussed the 2 way bike lane proposal for Plaza Street by the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). DOT is proposing a bi-directional bike lane on the 40 foot roadway. The plan was initially presented in 2010 but based on community concerns; it was redesigned and brought back before the boards recently. The new plans do not call for a reduction of parking spaces, and present increased safety measures for bikers and pedestrians, and many benefits for the community.

Specifically, the Plaza Street bike lanes plan calls for a two way buffered bicycle lane, a narrowed existing moving lane to the standard width of 11 feet (this will help slow the speed of traffic and increase biker and pedestrian safety), wide separation between vehicles and contra-flow bikes, speed humps, and painted neck downs. The benefits of the proposed plan are improved cycling route flexibility and connectivity as it eliminates the single lane counter-clockwise flow currently in place (this causes bikers to ride against traffic to reduce their travel time), easy on/off for short bike trips, traffic calming measures on residential streets, predictability of two-way cyclists (which makes it safer for pedestrians), and no loss of parking spaces for the community.

The committee voted unanimously to support the proposal as presented, on the condition that DOT look into further pedestrian safety improvements and traffic calming measures, and that DOT revisit the project six months after full implementation.

Mr. Mensah asked how the Board could be assured that DOT would follow-up on the situation as requested. Mr. Witherwax stated that DOT has a very good track record and would likely do so. A motion was made by Mr. Pierce to support the committee’s recommendation and seconded by Mr. Staton. The motion was carried with a final vote of 36 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair**

The Youth & Family Services committee met Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm.

In addition to the Chair Akosua Albritton, present were: Princess James, Angeli Rasbury and Audrey Taitt-Hall.

The Youth & Family Services Committee was awarded a cash donation of \$300 from PS167K. They were awarded for their outstanding service to children and families in need. The students of PS167 were able to donate this cash through their school's "Penny Harvest" program in which students would collect and donate pennies for a program they wish to support. The money donated will be used toward the upcoming Community Conference.

In the 2012 issue of The District Pulse, the Youth & Family Services Committee learned that there are funds being allocated for programs to assist children and families which include: Advantage Afterschool, Runaway and Homeless Youth, English Second Language (ESL)/Adult Basic Education, Safe Harbor for sexually exploited Youth, Child Care, and Kinship Caretaker programs.

The Administration for Children Services (ACS) has a "Close to Home" program which is a reform for the juvenile Justice System. When juvenile offenders from New York City are classified as "low risk", they will complete their rehabilitation and/or receive services within the five boroughs instead of receiving the same services upstate New York.

The Youth & Family Services Committee is still awaiting confirmation for the location of the annual conference. Because the committee had not obtained a definitive location as of May 2012, the conference has been postponed to November 10, 2012.

The next meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee will be Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend.

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

**SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY'S OFFICE – Mr. Jim Vogel**

Mr. Vogel announced that Senator Montgomery has recently introduced a bill to reverse Mayoral control of public schools. Another bill disallowing the police to use condoms as evidence was also introduced. He explained that in stop and frisks, an individual found carrying a condom can be arrested on suspicion of having the intention to engage in prostitution. In addition, Mr. Vogel announced that on June 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a silent march to end Stop and Frisk from 1PM to 4 PM. Call the Senator's office at 718-643-6140 for more information and for the location.

**COUNCILWOMAN DARLENE MEALY'S OFFICE – Ms. Arna Lipkind**

Ms. Lipkind announced that the tax lien sale would take place on May 17<sup>th</sup>. There are payment centers open until 7 PM to help those that might end up on the tax lien list to arrange payment plans and settle their bills prior to having their debt sold. Call the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097 for a list of locations. In addition, the SYEP application deadline is fast approaching. Please have youth complete an application for a chance to obtain at summer job.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Vogel and Ms. Lipkind for their announcements and thanked everyone for attending. She then adjourned the meeting at 10 PM. The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at Berean Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1635 Bergen Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). All are invited to attend.

### **Guests Present**

Shirley Mondesir  
Ralph Howell  
Hazel Hurley  
Paula Pinnoch  
Emmanuel Bonser  
Constance Lesold  
Emma Smith  
Jacqueline Welch  
W Wilson  
Eddy Petit  
Valerie Nero-Reid  
Debra Worthington  
Allen James  
Georgia Gomez  
Melina Bernadine  
Carolyn Sanders-James  
Heathe St Clair  
Cassey Ramharrack  
Audrey Andrews  
Emanuel Gold  
Lula Staton  
Qi Lin  
Gloria Gasper  
La-Niece Lyew  
Angella Jefferson  
Abby Level  
Kesha Harmon  
Emily N  
Heather Sky Mcfield  
James Fulton  
Malcolm McDaniel  
Chan Lin  
Simeon Kitt