

**Community Board No. 8
Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
727 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

April 14, 2011

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Teri Coaxum
Helen Coley
Renaye Cuyler
Diana Foster
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Doris Heriveaux
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Marie Louis
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Alton Pierce
Angelina Pinto
Marlene Saunders
Meredith Staton
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent

Dr. Adelle Allen
Jamell Henderson
Clarine Miller
Mary Reed

Members Excused

Priscilla Maddox
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Patricia Scantlebury
William Suggs
Audrey Taitt-Hall

Elected Official's Representatives

Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries's Office
Jesse Hamilton, Senator Eric Admam's Office
Vincent James, Councilmember Mealy's Office

Liaisons Present

A Phillip, BNIA
Gwen Sumter, Brooklyn Children's Museum

Elected Official's Present

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Councilwoman Letitia James
Councilman Albert Vann

CB 8 Staff

Julia Neale, Community Associate

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:15 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. Jackie Kennedy-Saddler of the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation welcomed the Board to the facility, stating that CNR is here to serve the community. She asked Ms. Lydia Ludo to provide a few words on how to get into a nursing home and the steps involved.

Ms. Ludo stated that at some point in time, we may be faced with the decision to put a loved one in nursing home. What happens is that people often choose places that they haven't visited before. CNR's goal is to prevent this situation from happening. CNR has state of the art equipment and was the first to start virtual rehab.

Presently, the administrative staff at CNR has made it a goal to dispel the notion that you will lose your pension and social security benefits if you go into a nursing home. There are ways to maintain your pension where it does not go toward your rent in a nursing home. If the difference is greater than \$750, you can keep the difference. If you own a home, your home will be exempt and your family will be able to keep and maintain the home. Children will have to prove that they have been living there for the past two years. Social workers at CNR are on hand to walk you through the process. If you have any questions, call 718-636-1000.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Kennedy-Saddler and Ms. Ludo and asked for an update on crime statistics from the 77th Precinct.

77th Precinct – Captain Elvio Capocci, Commanding Officer

Captain Capocci announced that he has been with precinct for about a year. The 77th Precinct was up in crime last year, leading the city in crime. Thankfully, the precinct is doing better this year as crime is on a downward trend comparatively. Last year there was a big problem with violence and shootings as there were 75 shootings last year. So far, there have only been 5 this year.

Ms. Albert asked if sound permits would be issued for block parties this year. He responded that it all depends on the block.

Ms. Tyus thanked him for foot patrols on Sterling Place. A community resident asked if a suspect had been apprehended for the homicide on Sterling Place. He stated that there was a person of interest but no arrest made. The case is still open.

Ms. Granville thanked Capt. Capocci for taking the time to come out to the meeting and providing an update. She next asked Ms. Cumbo for a brief statement about MoCADA.

MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art) – Ms. Laurie Cumbo

Ms. Cumbo thanked the board for the opportunity to present. The goal and objective is to welcome everyone to MoCADA. Everyone should take advantage of the resource in the community. It's Brooklyn's first African Diasporan Art museum—diasporan refers to people of African descent throughout the world. She stated that she hopes that everyone will come to experience global culture. The MoCADA museum was started as a thesis project and ultimately presented to Councilman Albert Vann who provided funds to get started. Eventually, the museum moved to its current location at the BAM Cultural Center in Downtown, Brooklyn, conveniently located at 80 Hanson Place on the corner of South Portland Street.

There are 3 exhibitions per year. The museum is currently doing “reimagining Haiti” until May 8th. There will be a “night at the museum” on Friday, April 15, 2011 from 7-10 PM. There is a series of school tours to address the concern that school curriculums do not explore African Diaspora as of yet. The goal is to grant our children an understanding of Global art. There is an artists in schools program where artists are sent into schools to work with students. It lets students know that their experiences mean something. There is also an internship program and MoCADA television will be launching in July on BCAT. It will explore and document how we all experience the African Diaspora.

Soul of Brooklyn has created a program website guidebook and marketing campaign that will advertise the African Diaspora. The goal is to preserve small businesses and their impact on the African Diasporan. June 18-25th is Soul of Brooklyn week. The aim is to promote how powerful Brooklyn is.

Mr. Staton asked if MoCADA works with Weeksville. Ms. Cumbo stated that she works very closely with Pam Green, Executive Director of Weeksville. They work very closely with soul of Brooklyn. Ms. Green provides guidance on how to run the museum and serves as mentor. She also stated that MoCADA would love ultimately to have presence in Weeksville’s new educational center that is currently being constructed.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Cumbo for the information and asked Councilman Vann if he had anything to share.

36th Council District – Councilman Albert Vann

Councilman Vann stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak. The most obvious event in the City is that there is a new school’s chancellor. He wished Dennis Walcott well and good luck as school’s chancellor. He remains opposed to Mayoral control and unfortunately still have it over schools. However, we should give Mr. Walcott every opportunity to succeed and work with him for the betterment of the city’s schools and our children.

NYC was shortchanged in the budget significantly. We are not getting the money we need or even previously had, which is putting more burden on the city budget. We should all be very upset over obvious defunding. State legislators gave money to keep senior centers open, but we remain in danger of teacher layoffs and day care center closures. In the absence of state and federal funding, the priority becomes the city finding money that wasn’t known to save these day care slots and teachers. Soon, the mayor will present the budget and that is when the engagement will occur. Hopefully, the council will be able to prevail come June to save these essential services. If you are hurting, do not hurt silently. There is power in demonstration.

Mr. Staton asked if the mayor truly had a \$3 billion surplus. He was informed that there was a surplus that was used partly to plug the gap in the upcoming budget. It does not provide the money to save teachers and day care slots. Money will be found in the budget in other places to save these items.

Mr. Atkins questioned whether the December 2010 blizzard response was a direct result of budget issues. He was informed that the city reviewed city agencies and their budgets and how

they are impacted. A bunch of legislation was passed to prevent such a debacle from ever happening again.

Ms. Foster asked if the funding had been restored for the Vantage program. The response was that it was a state funded program. State allocated \$15 million for unnamed program dealing with homelessness. The Vantage program moved people from the shelter system to permanent housing with a voucher if they were capable and working. Without the program, the ultimate result will be to have more shelters opening up.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilman Vann for his report and asked for a report from the Dormitory Authority.

NYS Dormitory Authority – Mr. William Clark

Mr. Clark announced that all courts are staffed by court officers who are the first line of contact for anyone coming into the court. The current court officer training academy is located at 123 William Street in Manhattan. After 9/11, the Dormitory Authority identified that a residential facility was needed. The old St. Theresa of Avila school and gymnasium fit that purpose.

Court officers will be dispersed statewide from the facility. It is a 14-week training program. Those who do not dwell locally will be able to stay in the dormitory of the facility. Of the three buildings to be renovated, one will be the dorm, the gym will be a large training/field house, and the third will be used for administrative purposes. The end product should be tremendous opportunity for the community by taking three vacant, dilapidated buildings and refurbishing them.

Mr. Atkins asked if there would be a shooting range on site and was informed that there would not be one. He also asked if there would be placard parking. Mr. Clark stated that the majority of those using the facility would be brand new recruits and will not be afforded parking placards. Facility based vehicles will have on-site parking facility that can accommodate 9+ vehicles. Design and planning to that point have not developed, but there may be some cars parked on the street during the day. He assured everyone that there will not be classes all the time and that classes will depend on the budget and need. There will be about 3 classes per year. The site is very accessible by mass transit so there isn't much anticipated vehicular commuting. Mr. Atkins also asked if there would be a cafeteria for the dorm members and was informed that most likely food resources would be outsourced. Mr. Atkins raised that concern that it be outsourced to local vendors.

Ms. Louis stated that unemployment is a challenge in our community and asked if there could be initiatives or strategies put in place to help people in community access any jobs that will become available. He stated that positions and exam dates are posted throughout courts. Just go into your local courthouse and check the job placement board. Job opportunities are also published in periodicals.

Mr. Staton asked if jobs would be created with the construction. He was informed that there are criteria within contracts that are issued that ensure that a certain amount of contracts are given to women and minorities.

Responding to a question from a community resident, Mr. Clark stated that a class can range from 50 to 175 recruits. Mrs. Thomas-Bullock praised the Dormitory Authority for selecting District 8 and stated that many in the community will feel safer. Ms. Wedderburn asked what the start and finish date for the project are. She was informed that preliminary construction has already begun. Anticipate real construction to start in the fall with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2013.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Clark for the information and asked for a presentation on sex trafficking from the District Attorney's office.

Kings County District Attorney's Office – Ms. Lauren Hersh

Ms. Hersh announced that sex trafficking occurs when a commercial sex act is induced through force, fraud or coercion. People assume sex trafficking deals with smuggling of women into the country. But that is not the case. There is more than international sex trafficking; there is also a lot of domestic sex trafficking. Domestic cases are horrific because most of the victims are very young girls, unlike international trafficking, which are typically older girls.

Girls from Brooklyn are brought down the eastern seaboard. The average age that a girl is forced into prostitution is 12-14 years old. At least 100,000 American children are victimized each year. A 15 year old can have been victimized for up to and over 3 years.

One in 3 teens who are runaways will be solicited for sex within the first 48 hours of leaving home. If we do not get to these teens before the first 48 hours, a pimp will, and enter them into prostitution. The key is to reach the kids before they run away.

Possible trafficking indications include an excess amount of cash; hotel room keys; chronic runaway/homeless youth; signs of branding (tattoos/jewelry); lying about age/false identification; inconsistencies in story; lack of knowledge of a given community/whereabouts; presence of an overly controlling/abusive boyfriend; injury/signs of physical abuse or torture; restricted/scripted communication; demeanor—fear, anxiety, depressions, submissive, tense, or nervous behavior.

Drug dealers are realizing they can make just as much money if not more selling girls instead of drugs and are swiftly switching trades. The sale of a female's body is a reusable source and there are many ways to obtain new victims. For instance, victims can be threatened personally and their family in an effort to coerce them to stay in the life.

It is difficult to identify victims because they are physically and psychologically controlled by pimps; trained by pimps to tell lies and false stories; victims distrust law enforcement; are frequently moved. Traffickers can be a pimp, father, mother, boyfriend, uncle—anyone exerting control. They are not always organized criminals.

Pimp tactics include isolation, demonstrating "omnipotence" (I know cops in the precinct), physical violence, drugs, induced exhaustion, enforcing trivial demands, threats. Recruiting occurs through peer pressure, friends, kidnapping, parents selling children, violence/force; seduction/coercion; and more commonly, internet chatrooms. She anecdoted a story of a young girl forced into the sex trade after meeting a woman through an internet chatroom.

If you come in contact with a victim, try to elicit information by asking questions: are you being paid; have you been threatened; has your family been threatened; do you have to ask permission to use the bathroom; can you leave your job/situation if you want to; has your identification or documentation been taken; is anyone forcing you to do something you don't want to do; do you want or need help? Establishing a safe relationship is key. The message you want to convey is that you are here to help. Oftentimes, the girls and boys have never been told it and don't believe it.

You can help by volunteering with an organization set up to help; by participating in a clothing drive; hosting a training program; mentoring a child; distributing posters and postcards with hotline number, which is 718-250-2770. If you see anything or think you might have information on a possible sex trafficking case, please call hotline.

Mr. Atkins suggested that posters be placed around junior high and high schools. It must be put in young people's faces so that they are aware of the situation.

Nominating Committee – Dr. Frederick Monderson

Dr. Monderson announced that the nominating committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Home for the Aged located at 243 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The committee recommends the following slate for Community Board officers for the term 2011-2013:

Nizjoni Granville - Chairperson
Shalawn Langhorne - 1st Vice Chair
Robert Witherwax - 2nd Vice Chair
Atim Oton - 3rd Vice Chair
Akosua Albritton - Corresponding Secretary
Vacant - Treasurer
Meredith Staton - Sergeant at Arms
Robert Matthews - Chair Emeritus

Ms. Granville asked if there were additional nominations from the floor. Ms. Fox declined to serve another term as treasurer and nominated Ethel Tyus for the position, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Teri Coaxum nominated Sharon Wedderburn and she declined the nomination. Mr. Mensah nominated Sharon Wedderburn for 3rd Vice Chair, and she accepted the nomination.

Ms. Granville stated that the election will take place by signed paper ballot at the May 12th general meeting. She thanked Dr. Monderson for his report and asked for the following committee reports:

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

The Aging/Health & Human Services committee met on Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have any action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 5:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In attendance were Gail Branch-Muhammad, Renaye Cuyler, Fred Frazier, Priscilla Maddox, Alton Pierce, Al Taylor, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Ernest Sawyer, Lanaya Irvin, Wayne Bailey, Regina Cahill, Eric Rosenblum, Ellen Fishman, Martie McNabb, Bob Biegen, Gerard Kouwenhoven, Danny Torres, Debra Bicknese, Alex Savoie, Danae Oratowski, Ede Fox, and Duke Saunders.

In the absence of Ms. Maddox and Ms. Oton, Ms. Cuyler gave the report for the committee. She stated that the committee is working with Mr. Laurel Djoukeng on a project to bring job training and assistance services to youth ages 18-25 that live in District 8. Mr. Pierce read the action items for the committee.

1. The proprietors of Bogman LLC, d/b/a The Bearded Lady bar/restaurant located at 686A Washington Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) made a favorable presentation for their establishment that is seeking a full liquor license. The Bearded Lady will have 40 seats and 12 bar stools and will operate from 2 PM to 4 AM Monday thru Friday and from Noon to 4 AM weekends. Light background music will be played.

The Bearded Lady falls within the NYS Liquor Authority's 500 foot rule parameters. This means that there are at least three other establishments within 500 feet that already have full liquor licenses. This fact prompted tremendous discussion by the committee about what restrictions should be placed on establishments that have to apply for a 500-foot rule hearing. A sub-committee was subsequently formed to determine rules and guidelines for new applications that come before the Board in the future.

There was no police input on the establishment or any of the others discussed but the vicinity is not prone to violence and criminal activity. In addition, as part of the application to the NYS Liquor Authority (SLA), the proprietors put together a package complete with letters of support and a petition from the community. As a result, the committee voted to support the application with a final tally of 13 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions and moves that the full Board support its recommendation.

Mr. Staton was confused as to whether the 500 foot rule was always in effect. He was informed that it is a rule put in place by the NYS Liquor Authority so that communities can determine if a new establishment will be beneficial for the community.

The full Board voted on the establishment, defeating it with 12 members in favor, 7 opposed, with 12 abstentions. Because the number of those in opposition and the number of abstentions outnumber those in favor, the motion did not carry.

2. The proprietors of Always Sunny Corp., d/b/a The Calf BK located at 611 Vanderbilt Avenue (between Bergen and St. Marks) made a favorable presentation for their restaurant that is seeking a full liquor license. The Calf BK will seat 22 with another 10 seats at the bar and will operate Monday thru Wednesday from 4 PM to 2 AM, Thursday and Friday from 4 PM to 4 AM, Saturday from 11 AM to 4 AM, and Sunday from 11 AM to 2 AM. The proprietors own three other establishments within New York City.

A community resident raised concern over certain promotions at two of the other establishments that she believes are against SLA regulations. In addition, the president of the Vanderbilt Avenue Merchant's District refused to grant a letter of support for the establishment based on three reasons: 1) she does not know the proprietors personally; 2) she's concerned about the additional competition with having another restaurant/alcohol serving establishment within a 3 block radius on Vanderbilt Avenue; and 3) she is not personally willing to make a statement that the business would be an asset to the community.

Similarly, the Calf BK must also submit a 500-foot rule application to the SLA as there are already 3 or more establishments within 500 feet that have full liquor licenses. However, the committee supported the applications because it will serve Australian cuisine and there is only one other establishment in the District—Milk Bar—that serves Australian cuisine. The final vote tally was 6 in favor, 4 opposed, with 4 abstentions. The committee moves that the full Board support its recommendation to support the venture.

Mr. Witherwax stated that the statement of the Vanderbilt Avenue Merchant's District could be prejudicial and should be stricken from the record. However, the statement was simply a quote of what was said, and the Board requires a letter from the Merchant's District for new establishments. Therefore, it must be noted why such a letter was not received. Ms. Louis also noted that Vanderbilt Avenue is turning into restaurant row. This type of establishment is very consistent with what's going on. The full Board voted to support the application with 23 members in favor, 3 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

3. The proprietors of Chuko, located at 552 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner of Dean Streets) made a favorable presentation for their noodle restaurant/bar that is seeking a beer and wine license. Chuko can seat 30 patrons with an additional 10 seats at the bar and will operate from Noon to Midnight daily. Because Chuko is only seeking a beer and wine license, it is not subject to either the 200 or 500 foot rule.

The full Board voted to support the application with 24 members in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

In addition, the committee discussed the following renewal applications:

1. Udom Thai Restaurant and Bar, 661 Washington Avenue (corner St. Marks)
2. Beast, 638 Bergen Street (corner Vanderbilt)
3. Mitchell Restaurant Inc., 259 Flatbush Avenue (6th /St. Marks)
4. Taqueria De Los Muertos, 633 Washington Avenue (corner Bergen)
5. Minimarket Junior Inc., 1468 Prospect Place (corner Rochester)

The District office received a noise complaint for Beast, but otherwise, there were no complaints issued for either of the establishments. The full board voted to support the applications with a final tally of 23 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Finally, the committee discussed the alteration application for Branded Cattle Saloon located at 603 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner of Bergen Street). Branded Cattle is seeking to legalize its sidewalk café that can hold 3 tables in the gated space in front of the establishment. Tables, it was emphasized, would be placed only within the gate that separates the property from the sidewalk. The sidewalk café area would cease operations at 11 PM daily.

The proprietors presented the committee with a petition and letters of support for the alteration application. The full Board voted to support the application with 18 members in favor, 5 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 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, March 17, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Ms. Wedderburn announced that there will be a Parent Coordinator Professional Development Series from April 18-21 and again from April 25-26. The key component of the series is: understanding by design; principles of mediation; college access for all; title 1 updates; CFN overview; PA/PTA election: modeling election; protocols, including Samuel: Special Ed Documentary. For more information, contact Anthony Settle at asettle@schools.nyc.gov or via telephone at 212-374-4118.

Mr. Mensah announced that the parents of PS 9 successfully challenged the co-location of charter school based on technicality. Their success illustrates the need for greater parental involvement. Without it we don't matter.

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Environment/Sanitation committee met on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have any action items. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 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, Chairperson

The Fire/Safety Committee met on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Mr. Witherwax reminded everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors. He then ceded his time to Ms. Josephina Sanfeliu, who spoke out against fire cuts. She stated that without arbitration, the city has reduced number of men on fire companies.

Ms. Sanfeliu also announced the 8th Annual Walk Against Fire Cuts on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The rally will begin at 9 AM at 5011 7th Avenue (corner of 51st Street) and continue to 136 Wythe Avenue at N. 9th Street. There will be a stop at 1033 Pacific Street, the site of a fatal fire a

number of years ago. Ms. Sanfelio distributed flyers with the necessary information to those present.

The next Fire/Safety meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation 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, April 7, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee considered Council Intro. Bill 477 – the Tenants’ Bill of Rights in response to a letter from City Councilmember Fernando Cabrera requesting support for the measure. The letter recited that Int. 477 will require owners of residential buildings with three or more dwelling units to post and provide to all tenants a clear, plain language outline of their rights pertaining to eviction, heat and hot water, habitability, quiet enjoyment, discrimination, roommates, subletting, tenant organizations, and guidance for tenants who are elderly, disabled, rent-regulated or stabilized, and receiving any program assistance.

Landlords will be required to conspicuously post the Bill of Rights near mailboxes, and to attach the Bill to all new and renewal leases. Civil penalties will apply for failure to post and distribute the Bill which will become effective 120 days after passage.

The Committee questioned how landlords would be notified of this new requirement and why two-unit buildings were excluded. Notwithstanding these open points of information, the Committee voted 12 in favor and one against to send a letter of support to the Council in support of the proposed legislation. The full Board supported the committee by voting to support the Bill with 24 members in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the St. John’s Recreation Center. The committee discussed its upcoming Awareness Day on June 4, 2011 at the St. John’s Recreation Center. Ms. Andrews also announced that the St. John’s Recreation Center is creating a Teen Access Drive for teens 14-17 years old beginning Monday April 18th at 3 PM. You can register your teen for the program by contacting the center at 718-771-2787.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 6 PM at the St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. All are invited to attend.

Police – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair

The Police Committee met on Monday, March 21, 2011 at the 77th Precinct. On May 19, 2011 at 6 PM, the Brooklyn Clergy NYPD Taskforce is having a block watch orientation. There will be training for residents and block presidents, as well as anyone willing to do community watch. The task force meeting will be held at Rehoboth Church located at 55 McDougal street between Ralph and Howard Avenues.

The next Police committee meeting will be Monday, April 18, 2011 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Transportation – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair

The Transportation Committee met at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. Present were Meredith Staton, Holly Fuchs, Elena Santogade, Chris McNally, Dr. Fred Monderson, Doug Williams, Xeerxeema Jordan, Elyse A. Johnson, Daniel Garwood, and Jacqueline Wells. Mr. Guy Palumbo, Executive Director of the Livery Round Table made a presentation explaining the issues involved in the Mayor's goal of expanding taxi service to the outer boroughs by creating a dual purpose vehicle type that services street hails as well as prearranged pickups.

Under the present licensing arrangement, an operating Taxi Base can respond to calls for pick-up, but is prohibited from picking up street hails. The Mayor wants to propose new Base licensing, a dual-licensing arrangement wherein these new operators could respond to both calls and street hails. The Committee endorsed the proposal in the report that the new license arrangement should keep the present situation and have a separate new license for street hails only.

Under this plan, there would be two separate systems, the one existing for Base calls and a separate new one for street hails. There would be no Dual Licenses.

There were a number of questions raised by members and community residents that could not be answered in such a manner as to dispel confusion. Therefore, the item was tabled pending further information and clarification.

Youth/Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services committee met on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chairwoman, also present were Princess James-Benn, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Ade Oyerinde, Michelle Mercurius (both Friends of Crown Hts PAC) and the chairwoman.

The meeting focused on identifying youth and family services needs that will be submitted to the district office. The chairwoman reminded the committee that the Community District Needs Statement and capital & expense budget items are fundamental annual tasks of community board committees. These items must be submitted on or before June.

Twelve needs/observations were contributed by the body. A few are shared below as examples:

1. The disorienting affect that residing in a homeless shelter for families has on children.
2. Increasing grocery prices and the stagnating salaries and wages. Additionally, the need for nutrition-dense raw fruit, vegetables, meat and seafood. Nutrition education for parents and establishing a food cooperative are solutions.
3. Many jobs that teens did in the 60s and 70s (eg., packing grocery bags, snow removal, newspaper delivery and tending to young children) are now the work of adults, especially immigrant adults. This reduces opportunities to develop a work ethic and earn money.

4. How to encourage local merchants to create jobs for youth? Are there incentives in place to offer them?
5. Politicizing parents of lower socioeconomic status to ensure their children receive quality youth leadership, social services and education.

Ms. Mercurius came to the meeting to explain the state of child care services at Friends of Crown Heights site #2. 54 of the 150 slots have been cut. This results in 3 rooms for infants and toddlers and 1 classroom for 3-year-olds being closed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

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

Public Comments

Ms. Albritton announced that rent regulations will expire June 15, 2011. The Real Rent Reform Campaign needs the average resident to get involved. Visit online at www.realrentreform.org or email realrentreform@gmail.com for more information.

Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James asked everyone to save the date of October 1, 2011, which is the 5th annual Crown Heights North historic district house tour.

Ms. Audrey Andrews announced that April 30th is Bethany United Methodist Church's annual dinner. Tickets are \$20 and you can pay at door. Bethany United is located at 1208 St. John's place, corner of Albany Avenue.

Ms. Sharon Griffith of Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, announced that NHS is hosting a "We Can Green Brooklyn Eco-Fair" on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 11 AM to 5 PM at Holy Cross Auditorium and Yard, located at 2510 Church Avenue (between Rogers and Bedford Avenues). Admission is free. For more information, call 718-469-4679 or visit www.brooklynecofair.org.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM. The next Community Board No. 8 general meeting will be Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue). All are invited to attend.