

**Community Board No. 8
Haitian American Day Care Center
1491 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11216**

June 9, 2011

Members Present

Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Leeann Banks
Princess Benn-James
Samantha Bernardine
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Helen Coley
Renaye Cuyler
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Curtis Harris
Jamell Henderson
Doris Heriveaux
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Alton Pierce
Angelino Pinto
Mary Reed
Cy Richardson
Marlene Saunders
Patricia Scantlebury
Meredith Staton
William Suggs
Gregory Todd
Yves Vilus
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Kim Albert
Teri Coaxum
Marie Louis
Priscilla Maddox
Robert Puca
Stacey Sheffey
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Ethel Tyus

Elected Official's Representatives

Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries's Office
Renea Murphy, Councilmember Vann's Office
Alfred Chiodo, Councilmember James's Office

Elected Official's Present

Assemblyman Karim Camara, 43rd A.D

Liaisons Present

Andres Phillips-Merriman, BNIA
Gwen Sumter, Brooklyn Children's Museum
Ronda Messer, NYC Dept of Transportation

CB Staff Present

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

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the last Community Board 8 general meeting were unanimously accepted with any necessary corrections.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other material were distributed for use.

Ms. Granville welcomed new community Board members: Ms. LeeAnn Banks, Ms. Samantha Bernardine, Mr. James Ellis, Mr. Curtis Harris, Mr. Cy Richardson, Ms. Stacey Sheffey, and Ms. Deborah Young. She announced that a mandatory orientation meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

She asked Mr. James Capocci from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make a brief report on “Infraguard.”

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – Mr. James Capocci

Mr. Capocci announced that the FBI has created a program called “Infraguard,” which has one goal nationwide: keeping critical infrastructure safe from attack. The key behind the 15 year old program is to get private citizens with knowledge of key infrastructure to participate in protecting it. Key infrastructure includes water, sewer, transportation, electricity, gas, and the like. Private citizens, through the program, have the ability to let the government know what is going on in these areas. There are hundreds of cases opened each year due to reports from private citizens that work in these areas that see something awry. Infraguard is a way to share information with the government in a safe and secure manner.

Currently, there are only 1200 agents in the New York area that also must work on other crimes. This is why the program is so important: it helps the FBI keep our cities safe. To learn more about the program, visit www.infragard.net . Information on potential participants must be screened. When you sign up for the program, a brief background check will be done to make sure that you are not going to use the program for nefarious purposes. You will be asked for your social security number. This is a way to ensure the integrity of the program and to secure the sharing of information.

Mr. Harris asked what the FBI expects of citizens after they have completed the application and been approved to participate in the program. He was informed that there are no expectations. Once accepted into the program, citizens can access the website at any time. The website is primarily an apparatus to keep citizenship informed.

Mr. Mensah asked if the information to be provided via Infraguard can be shared directly with local law enforcement. He was informed it can be. If you need an immediate response on something, it is best to go directly to the NYPD. Ms. Langhorne asked if there is an open relationship with the local precinct. She was informed that the FBI does maintain a liaison with local precincts at all times.

A community resident asked why it was necessary to give out secure information like our social security number. She was informed that it is a precaution taken by the government because it is sharing law enforcement data. Because of the sharing of information, it is necessary to keep tabs on who has access to the information.

Mr. Suggs asked if there was a way for federal agencies to educate local districts on energy issues, especially with infrastructure so close. He was informed that training sessions are offered once a month in NYC. Topics change monthly.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Capocci for his report and asked for a brief presentation from Ms. Iris Wells-Lindsay of Visiting Nurse Services of NY Choice.

Visiting Nurse Services of NY Choice Health Plans – Ms. Iris Wells-Lindsey, Enrollment Outreach Liaison

Ms. Wells-Lindsey introduced VNS Choice as a managed long term care program. To be eligible for enrollment, you merely have to be 65+, have Medicaid or be Medicaid eligible, and live in the five boroughs. The program provides services for personal care needs and requirements. Key components include care manager in the form of a registered nurse; a 24/7 nurse support line; home health care in the form of nursing, home health aide, and social work; rehabilitation therapies; medication management; personal care; medical equipment and supplies; nutrition counseling; home safety modifications and improvements; and hearing exams and aids (if needed) among many other things.

As part of the program, transportation is provided to all medical related appointments. You keep your primary care physician. The assigned care manager will make sure all medicines are administered and taken properly. There are no additional costs to be incurred for the care received. She distributed pamphlets with more specific information on the program specifics and what people could expect.

Ms. James asked if a similar program was available for children. She was informed that child assistance possibly falls under a different program and may be provided under acute care. Choice is based on individual needs.

Ms. Aikens-Reed stated that she has a friend constantly in and out of the hospital who needs assistance at night. Ms. Wells-Lindsay informed her that she can be accommodated based on need. A key component of the program is to keep people out of the hospital and nursing home and living independently.

Mr. Harris stated that he has an 80 year old father that lacks dental care. He asked if dental care was provided along with other medical needs. He was informed that dental care is provided.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Wells-Lindsay for her information and asked Assemblyman Camara to say a few words.

43rd Assembly District – Assemblyman Karim Camara

Assemblyman Camara announced that there would be an INS—Immigration Naturalization Services—application system event on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at PS 181 located at 1023 New York Avenue (between Tilden and Snyder). The event will help the first 400 attendees with their INS applications, many of which are expected to be Haitian refugees.

Rent regulations expire on June 15, 2011. The legislative body is seeking to strengthen the laws and extend them. Over 30,000 people are impacted by rent regulation in the 43rd District alone. The elected body has a responsibility to fight for the middle and lower income families.

For more information on either of the two things, call the Assemblyman's office at 718-771-3105.

Ms. Granville thanked Assemblyman Camara for his report and asked for a report from the following committees:

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

The Aging/Health and Human Services committee met on Monday, June 6, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have a report. The next meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2011 at 5:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

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

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the following new liquor licenses:

1. The proprietor of Haru Sushi N Thai located at 385 Flatbush Avenue (near Sterling Place) made a favorable presentation for his establishment that is seeking a beer and wine license. Haru Sushi N Thai has been in operation for a year but is transferring ownership. It will operate from 11 AM to 11 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 AM to 11:30 PM Friday and Saturday. The establishment can seat 20 and has a maximum capacity of 74 individuals.

There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the application with 26 members in favor, 1 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

2. The proprietor of Gueros, located at 605 Prospect Place (Franklin/Classon Avenues) made a favorable presentation for his establishment that is seeking a full liquor license. Gueros will operate Monday thru Friday from 3 PM to 11 PM and Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 11 PM. There will be 8 tables that can accommodate 16 patrons with a food counter that can seat an additional 6 with a maximum capacity of under 50. Light background music will be played.

The proprietor owns two other establishments, both in the Community Board 6 area. Mr. Craig Hammerman, District Manager of CB 6, has submitted written documentation of the fact that there have not been any incidents at either of the establishments. The proprietor also submitted multiple letters of support for the venture. Sgt. Lee of the 77th Precinct initially showed trepidation over the restaurant obtaining a full liquor license because of two other establishments in the vicinity that present problems for the precinct in the early morning hours. However, he showed support for the venture after hearing the presentation and receiving assurances that the restaurant would be closing at 11 PM. As such, the full Board voted to support the application by Gueros with 28 members in favor, 4 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

3. The proprietors of Franklin's Place made a favorable presentation for their establishment located at 728 Franklin Avenue (Park/Sterling Places) that is seeking a beer/wine license. Franklin's Place can seat a total of 10 patrons, and will have six seats at the bar and 4 additional seats at two tables. The space is only 300 sqft and has a maximum capacity of 10 as designated by the FDNY. The establishment will operate Tuesday thru Thursday from 5 PM to 11:30 PM, Friday and Saturday from 5 PM to 2 AM, and Sunday from 5 PM to 10 PM. It will be closed Monday.

The proprietors submitted multiple letters of support for their venture including one from the Crow Hill Community Association. Sgt. Lee of the 77th Precinct was hesitant to support the venture because of problems at two other locations on Franklin Avenue in the immediate vicinity. However, the full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 25 in favor, 8 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the following renewal application:

- a. Tao Vegan, located at 329 Flatbush Avenue (near Park Place)

There were no police objections to the application and the committee voted to support it with a final tally of 32 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

Finally, the committee heard a presentation from the representative of BianchiBK LLC, d/b/a Chavela's, located at 736 Franklin Avenue (corner of Sterling Place). Chavela's is applying with the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 21 tables and 46 seats. 4 tables with 9 seats will be on Franklin Avenue and 17 tables with 37 seats on Sterling Place. Sterling Place will have 3 rows of 24 by 24 inch tables with an aisle between a single row and a double row to allow passage. At the curbside is sufficient space for pedestrian passage.

There was tremendous concern over the B45 bus stop on Sterling Place, as the general consensus was that difficulties would arise with the ridership. Sgt. Lee also expressed concern that Franklin Avenue is the Impact Zone and again expressed concern over the two other establishments on Franklin Avenue that pose problems for the command during the early morning hours. The representative assured him that the outdoor space would be shut down by 11 PM daily.

Because of concern over the bus stop, the committee suggested that the owner reduce the number of tables on Sterling Place by eliminating one of the rows or using a single, smaller table (24 by 36 inches) to allow for more curbside space. The committee also mandated that no alcohol be served in the outdoors space. With the 2 stipulations agreed to and in place, the full Board voted to support the application with 26 members in favor, 4 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

In addition, the committee discussed its Catalyst Network Foundation, which will have its official launch party in the near future.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 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, May 19, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed school closures and their impact on the community. The committee conceded its report time to Ms. Karen Wade of Tinker Zone.

Ms. Wade of Tinker Zone announced that Tinker Zone is a program for grades 5-8 that tries to impart talent to youth, teaching valuable skills applicable to engineering and other fields. Kids are taught problem solving skills and how to think analytically. It is a program where kids experience math and science and apply their knowledge to analyze and develop technology. Core values instilled are perseverance, expectations of excellence, and positive self image. Certified teachers and industry professionals volunteer with the organization. The skills learned make participants attractive to top schools.

The summer and afterschool programs costs \$675 and is located at 1829 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210. Scholarships are not available. For more information, call 347-984-2059 or email at kwaithe@tinkerzone.org.

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Fire/Safety – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair

The Fire/Safety committee met on Wednesday, May18, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Mr. Witherwax stated that over the years, the District has been the victim of a number of arson fires. In the last few weeks alone there were numerous serious fires. We all need to be conscious of fire safety measures. If you see anything suspicious, contact the authorities immediately. Also, the number of fires in the District is very important because of the Mayor's plan to close firehouses.

The next meeting of the Fire/Safety Committee will be Wednesday, June15, 2011 at 7 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, June 2, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The Chair announced that the Crown Heights North Association will meet next Wednesday, June 15th at 6:45 PM at St. Gregory's. Phase II of the historic designation project is now complete, and discussion will be on Phase III. In addition, On June 16th at 6 PM, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will be hosting a meeting at the Brooklyn Children's Museum to discuss Phase III of the project as well.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews and Ms. Kim Albert, Co-Chairs

The Parks committee met on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at the St. John's Recreation Center. Ms. Andrews announced that the Community Awareness Day was a success and thanked those that came out to support the event. Next year's Awareness Day will be held June 9th.

The St. John's Recreation Center's multi-purpose ball field is now open. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held soon. The comfort station at the Dean Street Playground should be completed by 2012.

The next meeting of the Parks committee will be held Tuesday, September 6, 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, May 16, 2011 at the 77th Precinct. Ms. Langhorne distributed a petition on behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance, seeking to reduce the number of arrests for small amounts of marijuana, which is a violation of city code and should be solved with a summons, not arrest.

With the summer upon us, she urged everyone to be conscientious neighbors and mindful of the noise we make. If we are being disturbed by inordinate noise, we should report it.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 27th, one week after the regularly scheduled date at 7 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. Information and material on how to have a safer summer will be provided.

Youth and Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services committee met on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed its budget items and submissions for the Statement of Community District Needs. The Chairwoman announced that on May 30th, ACS published the Early Learn NYC RFP (Request for Proposal). Early Learn NYC is a 4-year funding period or 2 year refunding period.

Presently, it is imperative that we each contact our local elected officials and tell them that we need day care, headstart, and universal pre-K programs—all of which may face steep cuts.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and congratulated Ms. Valerie Hodges-Mitchell of the District office and Mr. Robert Witherwax for their recent graduations from institutions of higher learning. She then opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Ann-Marie Adamson from Borough President Marty Markowitz's office welcomed new community board members and informed them that CB 8 is very active and that a lot is going on in the community. She stated that she hopes the new appointees will assist with this growth.

There will be a mandatory orientation meeting at Boro Hall on June 20th for new members. Seasoned members are invited to attend as well.

Mr. Phil Hawkins announced that Shakespeare is coming to Brower Park. For two Saturdays at 3:30 PM, June 11th and June 18th, come out and enjoy the LPG Arts production of *Daydream*. Dr. Monderson announced that prior to the June 11th showing, the St. Marks Avenue Independent Block Association will have a street festival.

Ms. Audrey Andrews announced that on August 12th and 13th, the Lincoln Place Block Association will be hosting a flea market. There will belly dancing for the seniors. The event will occur at the St. Louis Senior Center on Albany Avenue.

Ms. Akosua Albritton announced that the 40th Annual International Arts Festival will be held July 1-4th at Commodore Barry Park by the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Ms. Granville thanked all those that attended and wished everyone a happy and healthy summer. She adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of Community Board No. 8 will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7 PM at Berean Missionary Baptist Church located at 1635 Bergen Street. All are invited to attend.

Guests

Rodney Seymore
Jean Best
A Andrews
Lula Staton
Andie Park
James C.
Karen Waithe
Harry Roxberry
Derek George
Desiree Detoy
Willard Hawkins

Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Kay Dunham
Daniel Edinger
James Turner
Kate Blumm
Charles Hickmon
Phil Hawkins
Iris Wells
Vanessa Babb
Shirley Mondesir
Melina Bernardine

