

**Community Board No. 8  
Hebron 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church  
1256 Dean Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**December 9, 2010**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Viola Bing  
Julia Boyd  
Teri Coaxum  
Helen Coley  
Renaye Cuyler  
Diana Foster  
Ede Fox  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Princess Benn-James  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Priscilla Maddox  
Robert Matthews  
Adelaide Miller  
Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Alton Pierce  
Angelina Pinto  
Mary Reed  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Meredith Staton  
William Suggs  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Vilma Zuniga

**CB Staff Present**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Associate

**Members Absent**

Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Jamell Henderson  
Shirley Lee  
Marie Louis  
Kwasi Mensah  
Hasoni Pratts  
Marlene Saunders

**Members Excused**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Dr. Adele Allen  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
Doris Heriveaux  
Clarine Miller  
Robert Puca  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Launa Thomas-Bullock  
Robert Witherwax

**Elected Official's Representatives**

Alfred Chiodo, Councilmember James's  
Office  
Renea Murphy, Councilman Vann's Office  
Joseph Alston, Councilmember Mealy's  
Office

**Elected Official's Present**

Senator Eric Adams, 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously accepted as written.

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

Ms. Granville asked Senator Adams to give an update on some of the projects in the Senate.

### **Senator Eric Adams**

Senator Adams announced that the elective is working hard to bridge a \$10 billion budget deficit. The goal is to ensure the protection of needed services, especially health care and education. If the community has any other pressing concerns, he urged individuals to send him an email as he reads and responds to each one personally. The email address is [senatorericadams@aol.com](mailto:senatorericadams@aol.com). In addition, messages and concerns can be relayed to Mr. Jesse Hamilton, who is now on his staff and normally attends meetings.

He informed the Board that he has begun a domestic violence youth task force, where a group of young people go into schools and speak about domestic violence in an effort to combat violence in relationships. Too often the focus is on adults but there is a growing population of abusive relationships amongst teens.

He is also part of a lawsuit initiated around barring the nomination of NYC School's Chancellor from being appointed. What is needed is not someone with a business background with no education experience. We need a great manager that is also an educator. We cannot employ Bernie Madoff math with our children and hope and pray for a positive outcome. It is obvious that the Mayor of NYC made the wrong choice and it is now up to the legislative body to correct his mistake. It is his desire and belief that the person running NYC public schools should have a minimum of a Master's degree or PhD in some education related field. Our students have suffered for the last 8 years in poorly run schools and it starts at the top. NYC is not competitive with the rest of the nation on exams and not enough students are graduating qualified for four year college programs.

Ms. Granville thanked Senator Adams for his report and asked for a report from the following committees:

### **Aging/Health & Human Services**—Ms. Marlene Saunders, Chairperson

The Aging/Health & Human Services committee met on Monday, December 6, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have any action items. The next meeting will be Monday, January 3, 2011 at 5 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Place). All are invited to attend.

### **Economic Development**—Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chairperson

The Co-Chair, Ms. Atim Oton, stated that the committee is working to develop a new program to train young people in the community to help them become job ready. We each have a responsibility to look for young people and get their feedback in what they need and desire.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Education**—Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chairperson

The Education Committee met on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but did not have a report. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 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, Chairperson

The Environment/Sanitation committee met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee continues to discuss its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Environment and Sanitation forum to be held in 2011. If you would like to participate in the planning of the forum, please attend meetings. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 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, November 17, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed low response times and the implication that response times are increasing because of few fire companies as Mayor Bloomberg continues to close firehouses to combat budget woes. The committee also discussed the fact that there are now only 3 firefighters on each Engine crew, down from five a number of years ago. This increases the time it takes to put water on a fire and also hinders firefighters' ability to bring the hose up multiple stories.

The next meeting of the Fire/Safety Committee will be Wednesday, December 15, 2010 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, Chairperson

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee heard a presentation from Guy Zucker, one of the owners of 622 Bergen Street, between Vanderbilt and Carlton Avenues. The property falls within the confines of the Prospect Heights historic district. The alteration proposal included changes to both the front and the rear of the building, as well as a roof-top addition of 396 square feet that for the most part would not be visible from Bergen Street.

Some community residents were concerned about the roof-line windows in the rear of the building. The idea of removing the three (3) existing windows and replacing them with one long sliding window closer to the roof-line bothered some members. The Housing Committee recommends that the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) consider the approval of the roof-top addition for 622 Bergen Street, separate and apart from the third-floor rear windows. In the event that LPC approves the roof-top addition, the Community Board supports the current three-window configuration without alteration. The Committee voted 7 in favor, with 1 abstention.

Unfortunately, due to the fact that Mr. Zucker was set to make his presentation before the LPC at his hearing on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the committee did not have an opportunity to make a recommendation before the full Board or to supply LPC with a letter of no objection. We were not given sufficient time to review the application, project plans, and do our due diligence on the matter. Consequently, a letter was written to the LPC asking for additional time to review applications before they schedule a hearing. A response to the letter has not been received yet.

The next meeting of the Housing/ULURP Committee will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2010 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, Chairperson

The Parks committee met on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at the St. John's Recreation Center. The committee discussed the site meeting for the reconstruction of the playground in Lincoln Terrace Park. It was during the site meeting that a discussion took place on how best to spend the \$2 million allocated by Councilwoman Darlene Mealy.

Portions of the funds will be spent on the following: the drainage problem throughout the playground area; adding a toddler and tot area; landscaping work around the comfort station; spray shower in the middle of the park; more green space; upgrading the benches and fountains; making the park handicapped accessible. It will take one year for the renovations to be completed. During the renovation process, the portions of the park being renovated will be closed to the public.

The next meeting of the Parks committee will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 6 PM at the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. All are invited to attend.

**Police/Public Safety**—Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Police/Public Safety committee met on Monday, November 15, 2010 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The Chairwoman thanked all those that came out to the meeting. She announced that the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council Christmas party will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at St. Teresa's Church located at the corner of Sterling Place and Classon Avenue.

Also on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the NYPD is hosting a "Cash for Guns" event, where individuals are given a \$200 bank card for every operable hand gun turned in. \$20 is being given for rifles and shotguns. The program is designed to get guns used in violent crimes off our streets. Less money is being offered for rifles and shotguns because they are typically not the guns used in violent crimes. No questions will be asked of anyone submitting the guns. Two locations will serve as drop off sites for the guns: First Baptist Church of Brownsville located at 357 Chester Street, and also Southern Baptist Church located at 820 Stanley Avenue.

The next Police committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Transportation**—Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Haitian American Day Care Center. The committee discussed the base license renewal for Catch Ah Ride Car Limo, Inc., located at 735 Nostrand Avenue (between Sterling and St. John's Places). There were no complaints regarding the car service submitted to the District office. As such, full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 26 members in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

There will not be a meeting of the Transportation Committee in December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at the Haitian American Day Care Center located at 1491 Bedford Avenue (corner of St. John's Place) at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Youth & Family Services**—Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chairperson

The Youth & Family Services committee meeting was cancelled for the month of December due to the inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and stated that the Board is constantly reviewing attendance records of members. She stated that Community Board No. 8 cannot function properly without an active body; we need all of our members to be on the same page, have the same goals of community improvement, and all must be willing to put in the work and effort to make District 8 successful. Unfortunately, there are three members that have not performed their duties as Community Board members and have excessive absences. Letters were sent to each member asking for an explanation and a response.

Mr. Alton Pierce asked how many meetings has each member missed and was informed that Dawn Brown was appointed in June and has never attended since her appointment; that Shirley Lee has attended only two meetings in the 2010 calendar year; and that Hasoni Pratts has attended only one meeting in the calendar year.

Ms. Lula Staton stated that Shirley Lee recently had a stroke and has been ill, which is the reason she has not attended. Ms. Michelle George, District Manager, stated that the District office has no knowledge of this because Ms. Lee had not called the office. Ms. Scantlebury mentioned other members, including herself that have had injuries and missed a number of meetings. She was informed that she and the other members did their due diligence by informing the District office. It was constantly stressed that Ms. Lee had not given any knowledge of injury or illness was to the District office.

Ms. Wedderburn asked what the bylaws specifically state on the subject of voting members off. Ms. George stated that the bylaws state that substantial absences are cause for removal and that ample notice must be given to each member in jeopardy of removal seeking input. Such notice was sent to the three individuals and no response was received.

The full Board voted to remove Dawn Brown, Shirley Lee, and Hasoni Pratts with a final tally of twenty-six members in favor, one opposed, with one abstention.

Ms. Granville reminded members of the importance of contacting the District office if they will be unable to attend a meeting. We need members willing to work to bring all the goals of the community to fruition, and we will not be successful if our membership is not willing to work together and put the effort in.

Ms. Granville next opened the floor to public comments.

**Mr. Jesse Hamilton**, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Leader, announced that the tree lighting in Brower Park was held earlier in the evening and was a success. It was a wonderful experience working with the Friends of Brower Park. He reminded everyone of Senator Adams' Open House, which would be held on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 9 PM at his district office located at 572 Flatbush Avenue.

In addition, also on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 PM, the Rosa Parks Independent Democratic Club will host is holiday party. It will be located at 284 New York Avenue, corner of Lincoln Place, entrance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Attendees are requested to bring a dish. RSVP is required, and interested parties can do so by calling Mr. Hamilton at 718-778-8924.

Finally, Mr. Hamilton announced that he recently resigned from Community Board 8 and that it was a pleasure serving for over ten years. He will remain active as he is working closely with Senator Adams and is one of the District Leaders in the community.

**Mr. Alfred Chiodo** from Councilwoman Letitia James' office submitted greetings from the Councilwoman's office. There will be a meeting regarding public safety during the holidays on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Cadman Congregational Church located at 210 Lafayette Avenue at the corner of Clinton Avenue.

**Mr. Jospheh Alston** from Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's office wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. He stated that Councilwoman Mealy is working diligently with other councilpersons to combat the Mayor's cuts to city agencies. His included cuts include 6,000 teachers, cuts to ACS and cuts across the board. In addition, the monthly advisory board meetings held at the councilwoman's district office are now held the first Saturday of each month instead of the second Saturday.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and wished those present a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. She then adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.

The next meeting of Community Board No. 8 will be held on January 13, 2011 at 7 PM at Berean Missionary Baptist Church located at 1635 Bergen Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). All are invited to attend.

#### Guests

Corrine Bethune  
Valorie Bowers  
Audrey Andrews  
Jeff Sherman  
M.P Johnson  
Richard Miller  
C. Lawless  
L. Brown  
James Ellis  
Anthony M.  
Reyneldo Vassel  
Jacqueline Welch  
Helen Beichal

Lula Staton  
Hazel Hurley  
Shirley Mondesir  
Thomas Montford  
Ian Nickles  
Valerie Nero  
Keshia Harmon  
Amy Clark  
Connie Lesold  
Andrea Phillips Merriman  
Elder Romel Viel  
Kevin O'Leary