

**Community Board No. 8
Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
727 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

November 10, 2010

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Dr. Flize Bryan
Helen Coley
Renaye Cuyler
Diana Foster
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Jesse Hamilton
Jamell Henderson
Princess Benn-James
Xeexema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Alton Pierce
Mary Reed
Meredith Staton
William Suggs
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Vilma Zuniga

Members Excused

Dr. Adele Allen
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Priscilla Maddox
Angelina Pinto
Patricia Scantlebury
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Sharon Wedderburn

Members Absent

Dawn Brown
Teri Coaxum
Ede Fox
Doris Heriveaux
Shirley Lee
Marie Louis
Robert Matthews
Clarine Miller
Hasoni Pratts
Marlene Saunders
Robert Witherwax

Elected Official's Representatives

Dottie Lebron, Councilman Vann
Maurice Roberts, Senator Adams
Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries
Samuel Light, Assemblyman Camara
Renea Murphy, Councilman Vann
Jakki Gilchrist, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Maurice Roberts, Senator Eric Adam's Office
Alfred Chiodo, Councilmember James's Office

Elected Official's Present

Shirley Patterson, District Leader 43rd A. District
Ola Alabi, District Leader, 57th Assembly District
Walter Mosley, NYS Committeeman, 57th District
Jesse E. Hamilton, District Leader, 43rd A. District

CB Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously accepted with the corrections to a few typographical errors.

CORRESPONDENCE – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for a welcome address from Mr. Palmira of CNR.

CENTER FOR NURSING AND REHABILITATION—Mr. Randy Palmira, Executive Director

Mr. Palmira welcomed everyone to the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and stated that it is a pleasure to host the Board. CNR has made many strides and accomplished many things in the past few years. Last July, it was accredited for stroke specialty, and was recently featured on the show, “The Doctors” for its virtual rehabilitation. Community Board 8 has been very supportive of CNR and has referred numerous patients over the years. He stated that he hopes that will continue.

He asked Dr. Phyllis Quinlan, Director of Patient Services, to give a more in-depth analysis of CNR’s services.

Dr. Quinlan announced that CNR provides clinical services with 320 beds. The first floor of the facility houses recreation rooms and physical therapy. The second floor houses “clinically repressed” patients, that is, patients that are acutely ill and challenged. The facility affords an opportunity to provide services in a home-like setting, thereby allowing residents to stay at the facility instead of going back and forth to the hospital. There is an extensive, fully certified wound care specialist that assists in preservation of limbs and maximizing function.

The third floor houses short stay residents whose diagnoses deal with rehabilitation services. These patients have had joint replacement surgery or are post-amputees. Most of these patients can return home fully independent after a short while.

The fourth floor houses long term care needs patients. These patients are physically or cognitively challenged and cannot take care of themselves independently. Finally, the fifth floor is the most cognitively challenged residents, or the dementia floor. The goal of CNR is to ensure that each resident is treated with dignity and the care they deserve.

Dieticians are employed and are very good at ascertaining dietary needs for each resident. They ensure a happy medium between diet needs and desires. CNR also employs four licensed and Master’s certified and prepared social workers to meet the needs of residents and their family members.

Therapeutic recreation services speaks to the enjoyment of life and focuses on transitioning from outside life to internal care at the center. It hinges on the way residents are engaged and meets their needs. For instance, music therapy and puppet therapy (where residents talk to puppets in case they do not want to talk to a person) are used to engage residents and assist with cognitive healing.

CNR is a leader in innovative healing practices. Therefore, it should be no surprise that the center has taken to Skype and Facebook to help keep people connected socially with their family and friends.

Ms. Granvilled thanked Mr. Palmira and Dr. Quinlan for their information and asked Mr. Caridad for a report.

NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY PROJECT—Mr. Luis Caridad

Mr. Caridad thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and shed light on a disturbing trend across the city: foreclosures. As per the foreclosure map that was presented, foreclosures are clustered in poorer communities where predatory lending is highest. The map only includes information on 1-4 family homes and not condos and co-ops. Community Board 8 had 183 foreclosure filings last year; there were 4000 citywide. The percentage seems small, but it is actually a large number.

He urged anyone that may be in danger of foreclosure to apply for federal programs to prevent it from occurring. The Obama administration has created incentives for banks to modify loans to decrease monthly payments. Homeowners should call 311 for a list of non-profit organizations and banks that can assist with this program.

As the number of foreclosures goes up, so does the number of scams. Scammers target distressed homeowners, charging thousands of dollars upfront to provide services that are generally free. Because of this, a law was recently passed making it illegal to charge upfront for services.

It is now mandatory for settlement conferences to be held between homeowners and lenders to try to come up with a solution besides foreclosure. Consequently, homeowners should read every piece of mail to find out when their conference is scheduled as judges and courts send out specific information. Too often, the homeowner disregards the conference letter not knowing what it is.

Renters are affected by foreclosures as well. Up until last year, renters had no recourse. Now, renters must be notified as soon as the foreclosure process begins. Tenants in foreclosed homes have the right to stay in the building 90 days or the end of the lease, whichever is longer. Those that have no lease have 90 days before they must vacate the premises.

Ms. Taitt-Hall asked if the tenant is supposed to continue paying rent for the 90 days because sometimes they do not. She was informed that they are indeed supposed to pay rent to the new owner or the bank.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Caridad for his report and asked for a report from the following committees:

AGING/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING/ULURP –Ms. Marlene Saunders and Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairs

The Housing/ULURP and Aging/Health & Human Services committees held a joint meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committees heard a presentation from the owner of Housing Bridge, Inc. about their response to a recent Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS) Request for Proposal (RFP) to operate a 12-unit transitional housing

facility for homeless families at 1325 St. John's Place (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues). The building would serve as housing for families who are transitioning out of the shelter system and into permanent housing. Depending on the number of children, each unit would have one or two bedrooms.

The committee discussed the fact that in November 2007, the Board voted to enact a moratorium on social service facilities in the district until parity is reached with other districts. Also, substantial discussion was held on the fact that the property in question—1325 St. John's Place—has a number of housing code violations, including lead paint.

Community Board 8 is oversaturated with social service facilities as evidenced by data compiled by the NYC Dept. of City Planning. In addition, a number of questions concerning the safety of the building were raised that were not answered, and the committee voted to submit a letter to the Dept. of Homeless Services and the media concerning these issues. Overall, discussion focused on the over-saturation of District 8 with social service facilities, and consequently, the full Board voted to oppose the project with 25 members opposed, 0 in favor, and 0 abstentions.

In addition, the Housing/ULURP committee discussed Councilwoman Letitia James' desire to have the northern portion of her district that has not undergone landmark designation re-zoned. Presently, the area bound by Atlantic Avenue to Bergen Street from Vanderbilt to Franklin Avenues is designated M-1. Councilwoman James would like the area to maintain light manufacturing status while still encouraging the construction of affordable housing. The committee discussed the difficulty in having the area designated as merely an M-2 because it would allow for the construction of hotels and parking lots, which is not what the community either wants or needs. The solution, therefore, would have to involve the creation of a zone with height restrictions, that will move the FAR from 1 to 2. The full board voted unanimously to support the measure.

In addition, Ms. Granville stated that not many people are aware of the moratorium; consequently, it will be placed on the website as soon as possible.

The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

The next Aging/Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 5:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair; Ms. Atim Oton, Co-Chair

The Economic Development committee met on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the following new liquor license applications:

1. Mr. Anatoly Dubinsky made a presentation regarding his latest establishment at 724 Franklin Avenue (between Park and Sterling Places) called Franklin Beer and Grocery. Franklin Beer and Grocery is seeking a full liquor license and will mainly serve as a raw bar serving 2 varieties of oysters as well as clams. Fresh cheese and sandwiches will also be served.

Mr. Dubinsky has four other establishments within the District 8 community, all of which are on either Franklin or Vanderbilt Avenues. He has worked hard to overcome difficulties experienced with residents as well as to resolve any complaints concerning his businesses. Franklin Beer and Grocery is not projected to open until at least April 2011 depending on funding. There will be 10 employees for the establishment that can seat up to 60 individuals at communal tables. Because it is not a bar in the traditional sense of the term, there will not be licensed security on hand, but there will be a minimum of 6 video cameras. Soundproofing will be in effect for the establishment that will operate from 5 PM to 2 AM Sunday thru Thursday and 5 PM to 4 AM Friday and Saturday.

The 77th Precinct was contacted regarding potential problems in the vicinity. While there have been a few shootings on Franklin Avenue in the near vicinity, none of the problems have been attributed to establishments such as the one proposed. Therefore, the police had no objection to the application. The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 23 in favor, 2 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. Mr. Anthony Mackie and Mr. Ricardo Pereira made a presentation regarding their proposed establishment called "NoBar" located at 608 Nostrand Avenue (corner of Pacific Street). NoBar is seeking a full liquor license and will be able to accommodate 42 individuals and a pool table. Mr. Mackie presented general ideas for his establishment that he states will be akin to a 19th century French Rustic Tappas Bar. He provided a modern menu for the establishment that has hired a celebrity chef and celebrity mixologist to assist with the menu.

Mr. Pereira stated that he has 16 years experience managing restaurants and bars and will serve as manager of NoBar. He is also a licensed security guard and will oversee security operations. NoBar will employ a total of 13 individuals, 3 of which will be licensed security guards. There will also be video cameras to assist with surveillance. NoBar will operate from 4 PM to Midnight Monday thru Wednesday, 4 Pm to 2 AM Thursday thru Saturday, and Noon to Midnight on Sunday. Mr. Mackie stated that he lives around the corner from the establishment and subsequently is sensitive not only to community needs and desires, but also things that are lacking in the community in terms of recreation. He is anticipating opening in January 2011.

The 77th Precinct was consulted on the issue. Like Franklin Avenue, the Board was informed of a number of shooting incidents and drug sales in the area, none of which were attributed to the establishment or the location. Ms. James concurred that there are a lot of drugs and shootings in the area, and was informed by Ms. Oton that the needs of the community have to be balanced over the fear of drugs and shootings. She reminded her and the rest of the Board that Franklin Avenue recently was dubbed "Murder Avenue" by the NY Daily News, and if that was approved despite this information, Nostrand Avenue should be considered.

Another resident asked how many other establishments on the block served liquor and was informed that there are none. Mr. Pereria, manager for NoBar, stated that it is mainly a restaurant and lounge, not night a night club. The focus will be on specialty cocktails, not a regular bar.

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 21 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

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, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chair

The Education Committee met on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Among the topics covered at some level, were school bullying, Charter Schools, the impact and role of Parents-Teachers Associations (PTA) and Parent Coordinators and upcoming issues and events.

Given the recent wave of reports, we've all been made painfully aware of the subject of bullying and its implications to a child's self-esteem and educational welfare. Hardly a new reality, it nevertheless is something that all of us need to be involved in, to assure that our young people need to understand that no one is to be intimidated or harassed, and that respect is due to all. Sadly, there are those who have even resorted to suicide in their despair and depression. Whereas bullying or bullies have always been associated with males, many young *females* have become a part of this culture as well.

One of the issues regarding Charter Schools that needs to be monitored, is non-compliance with general procedure of admission standards, which seem to be favoring persons from select neighborhoods as opposed to the lottery system.

Princess James was insightful enough to inform the group of the Brooklyn Families and Educators Conference, on Sunday, November 14, 2010, at the United Teachers Federation (UFT) Headquarters, 52 Broadway. It is scheduled from 8 AM to 3 PM, and the theme is Strengthening Each Other to Create Positive Partnerships. Admission is free.

Please visit the website of the *Urban Neighborhood Services*, to learn more of about their community outreach, at www.uns-inc.org. They also provide SAT preparation classes. Their phone number is (347) 374-2455.

ARIS Parent Link is another valuable resource to engage the parents in their child's academic development. It serves as a sort of tracking system, to monitor academic and attendance records, and can help in mapping out a plan of improvement and communication between parents and teachers (www.arisparentlink.org).

Parents' Associations (PA) and Parents'-Teachers Associations (PTA) have both, historically, provided an important outlet for both parents, teachers and school administrators, to discuss curricula, academic achievement and programs to enhance the child's upward mobility, via the best education possible. It has been the intent of the Education Committee of Brooklyn Board 8, to form a partnership with both the PTA/PA organizations, as well as the Parent Coordinators, to assist in any way possible, the enhancement of their role and impact on our children's education. As such, we are in the process of hosting a summit with the various PTA presidents/officers and Board 8, to put the issues on the table and learn more intently, what untapped potential can be extracted for the benefit of the school communities which they serve.

If you are interested in Education issues, you are implored to attend Education committee meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION—Ms. Ede Fox and Ms. Helen Coley, Co-Chairs

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, October 16, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the upcoming Water Bill Help Night co-

hosted by Councilman Al Vann on Wednesday, December 8 at Boys and Girls HS, located at 1700 Fulton Street from 6 to 8:30 PM. New York City's water rates continue to increase every year. The economic recession we are currently experiencing, the rising cost of water and other pressures have placed some homeowners in the position of falling in debt to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the city agency responsible for billing and collecting water costs. During the past several years, some homeowners have fallen so far behind on their water bills that the city has placed and sold liens on their homes. The forum will provide homeowners with an opportunity to meet one-on-one with customer representatives from DEP.

The next meeting of the Environment/Sanitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

FIRE/SAFETY—Robert Witherwax, Chairperson

The Fire/Safety Committee met on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the low response times since the number of companies has been reduced because of budget cuts. In addition, the committee discussed the reduction from 5 men to 3 per men per Engine crew and the need for the Community Board to fight for the restoration of the two men.

The next Fire/Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

PARKS—Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the St. John's Recreation Center. The committee discussed the upcoming site meeting for St. John's Park; Councilman Al Vann allocated \$1 million to update the park. A screen will be added to the back wall of the recreation center for movie screenings.

In addition, Councilwoman Darlene Mealy allocated \$2 million for the renovation of the playground area at Lincoln Terrace Park. The site meeting will be Monday, November 22, 2010 at the park playground.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 6 PM at the St. John's Recreation Center, located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

POLICE—Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Police committee met on Monday, October 18, 2010 at the 77th Precinct. In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Xeerxeema Jordan chaired the meeting. The committee discussed community issues and the increase in crime seen over the last few months. In an effort to discuss ways of decreasing crime, the committee is hoping to meet with Capt. Capocci and Community Affairs to brainstorm ideas on how the community can help.

In addition, Ms. Langhorne announced that the 77th Precinct is one of the precincts with a high crime rate. She urged all victims of crime—regardless of how minor—to report it, stating that if it is not reported, it didn't happen in the eyes of the police.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 7 PM at the 77th Precinct, located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn NY. All are invited to attend.

TRANSPORTATION—Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the continuing complaints regarding MV Transit Co, an access-a-ride paratransit bus company located on Dean/Pacific Streets between Utica and Rochester Avenues. Complaints range from the buses sitting with their engines idling for longer than the 3 minutes allowed by NYC law, creating a toxic environment, and also disrespecting homeowners by blocking driveways. Numerous letters have been written by Community Board 8 on behalf of residents to no avail. The committee suggested that the letter writing campaign continue until results are seen.

The next Transportation committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

YOUTH/FAMILY SERVICES—Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chairperson

The Youth/Family Services committee met on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the October 27th City Hall press conference “to speak out against the Bloomberg Administration’s continued efforts to dismantle the City’s system for early childhood education and the Campaign to Restore Community Services.” This campaign “urges Governor Paterson to RESTORE \$190 million in member items.” The campaign runs from Nov 1 – 15, 2010. People and organizations are urged to call or write the Governor, contact state senators and assembly members; converge on the Governor’s W. 132nd Street home and mobilize to travel to Albany on Monday, November 15. It was discussed how legislative member items on the city and state level have the bad reputation of being ‘gifts to pet projects’ in addition to being legitimate funding for needed and well-administered programs. At this conversation point, a pilot program that funds evening and overnight child care for employees of nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted services to the disabled was described by Ms. Taitt-Hall.

The committee also discussed the DYCD RFP Young Adult Internship Program. The RFP release date was November 3. The pre-proposal conference is November 16 and submission deadline is December 15, at 2:00 PM. The program funding term is July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 6:30 PM 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 opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Walter Mosley, 57th Assembly District Leader, announced that as the holiday season descends upon us, the current recession is placing greater strain on families and preventing them from being able to celebrate. Therefore, he is supporting a Turkey Drive with Assemblyman

Jeffries and Senator Adams to supply turkeys to families in need. Names of families in need can be supplied to either office. He also wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day.

Mr. Staton stated that we need to make sure that our elected officials in the Assembly approve someone with Education experience to oversee our public schools, not the current candidate, Ms. Cathy Black, who does not. He was informed by Mr. Mosley that the Assembly is looking into the waiver process and that our representatives are doing their best to look out for the children in the city's schools. Mr. Desmond Atkins reiterated Mr. Staton's concerns and implored the District Leader to convey the community's concerns to the Assembly body.

Ms. Dottie Lebron of Councilman Vann's office announced the Councilman's Water Bill Help Night that was reported in the Environment/Sanitation Committee report. She urged anyone with a high water bill to attend the information session and work on an arrangement to pay off the high water bills to avoid a lien being placed on their property.

In addition, the Councilman introduced in September a smoking ban in public parks and beaches to protect non-smokers from second hand smoke.

A resident complained that Councilman Vann is highly inaccessible and asked what the best way to access him would be. He was informed that the office is always available and residents can reach out to her or any other staff member by calling the district office at 718-919-0742 or the Manhattan office at 212-788-7354.

Mr. Atkins stated that Councilwoman James has allocated funds for the purchase of Argus cameras in the three precinct areas that she covers; he asked if Councilman Vann would be interested in doing the same since his portion of District 8 is seeing the highest spike in crime in the District. Ms. Lebron stated that she would speak to him after the meeting.

Ms. Diana Foster stated that with the moratorium in place against social service facilities in the District, it would be a good idea if someone from the Councilman's office could attend Housing/ULURP Committee meetings. Ms. Lebron stated that if there is an important meeting that the community board would like representation at, the District office merely needs to reach out and ask for a liaison to be present. The Councilman's office is extremely open to helping with issues such as this.

Ms. Jakki Gilchrist from Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's Office thanked the Parks Committee for acknowledging the \$2 million allocated to Lincoln Terrace Park. She announced that Councilwoman Mealy has signed on to the Living Wage Bill that aims to have the minimum wage increased to \$10/hour with benefits.

The Councilwoman continues to host community advisory board meetings every second Saturday at the District office located at 1757 Union Street from 10 AM to Noon. Ms. Gilchrist also announced that the Civil Service Exam deadline is November 23rd. Walk in applications are accepted at 210 Joralemon Street, 7th Floor. There are plenty of jobs available for qualified candidates. For more information on either topic announced, please email her at jgilchrist@council.nyc.gov.

Ms. Samantha Ridge of the Bergen Home Owners Block Association announced that Community Board 8 needs to fight for education assistance services for our public schools since

such services are available for PS 161 in Brownsville. Tutors provide homework assistance and tutoring services for students. Such services are needed here as much as any other place.

Ms. Audrey Andrews announced that St. John's Bread and Life, a community based organization located on Lexington Avenue and Malcolm X Blvd provides free services and legal assistance. It also has a food pantry and soup kitchen for anyone in need of food.

Mr. Jesse Hamilton, 43rd Assembly District Leader, announced that he is working with Senator Adams office to bring more political awareness to the district. He spoke of the need for more community involvement in voter registration drives as this district has one of the highest numbers of unregistered voters and poorest voter turnout. We need to be more proactive in spreading the word about the importance of voting.

In addition, we need more qualified poll workers; there were not enough people to work the polls during November's election because not enough people are passing the exam. It is easy to make \$500 by working only 2 days.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day and Happy Thanksgiving. She adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at Hebron Seventh Day Adventist Church located at 1256 Dean Street (corner of New York Avenue) at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

Guests

Valerie Nero
Consuela Lawless
Phil Hawkins
Denise Lipscomb
Gwen Sumter
Shirley Mondesir
Elsie Richardson
Famotbe Aye
Mark Thurton
Marie Montrose
Dave Helipsomb
K. Malak
B. Calvert
Audrey Andrews
Anthony Taylor
Kesha Harmon
Ricardo Pereira
Agatha Terukowska
Phyllis Grannum
Lula Staton
Luis Caridad
Nigerian Museum Community Inc.
Alphonso Kitt
Laurel Brown