

Community Board 8  
Webex Virtual Meeting  
June 8, 2023

**Members Present**

Akua Aidoo  
Sharon Alexis-Pierre  
Glinda Andrews  
Lisa Atkinson  
Princess Benn-James  
Marva Brown-Henry  
Robert Callahan  
Edward Delman  
Dian Duke  
Andrea Ferris  
Drew Gabriel  
Tamika Gibbs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Colin Jakubczyk  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Frances Langley  
Dr. Sarah Lazur  
Lisa Maldonado  
David Mantell  
Kwasi Mensah  
Mimi Mitchell  
Gail Muhammad  
Fior Ortiz-Joyner  
Briana Peppers  
Taraya Pettway  
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack  
Yahya Raji  
Anika Roach  
Conor Ross  
Brian Saunders  
Meredith Staton  
Nicole Tetreault  
Mark Thurton  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young

**Members Absent/Excused**

Julia Boyd  
Jacques Brunvil  
Michael Francoeur  
Christopher Johnson  
Robert Lapoint  
Robert Puca  
Samori Toure  
Kimberly Watson

**Elected Officials Present**

Surana Purcell, District Leader

**Elected Official and Agency Representatives Present**

Anna Garcia, Councilmember Crystal Hudson  
Arlean Gillin, Councilmember Chi Osse  
Deanna Foote, Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
Orlando Ross, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke  
Kristian Rouse, Congressman Dan Goldman  
Raul Rothblatt, Assemblyman Brian Cunningham  
Hercules Reid, Mayor Eric Adams  
Emmitt Sklar, Public Advocate Jumanne Williams  
Karen Chambers, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
Paurcha Edwards, Senator Zellnor Myrie  
Sandra Sanchez, FDNY Community Affairs  
Alicia Pritchard, Brower Park Library

**CB8 Staff Present**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

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The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:20 PM by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the June meeting and thanked all for participating in the meeting after the need to switch to a virtual meeting as a result of poor air quality conditions in New York City. Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that despite clearer looking skies, the safety of the community is paramount. She then asked for roll call.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the May meeting were accepted with any necessary changes.

**Correspondence** – CB newsletter and other important information was emailed to the community.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked the Department of City Planning to discuss the City of Yes: Carbon Neutrality Zoning Text Amendment.

**Dept. of City Planning** - Jordan Fraade, Senior Borough Planner

Mr. Fraade introduced himself as a Senior Borough Planner for Brooklyn and the liaison for CB9. He announced that comments and questions on the City of Yes: Carbon Neutrality proposal are being accepted by the Board for issuance to DCP. Carbon Neutrality is first of three initiatives in the City of Yes series. It will include 17 changes to the zoning code. It is designed to expand opportunities for decarbonization projects by provide zoning relief to homeowners and developers that want to make changes but are hampered by zoning codes. The focus is cleaning the grid, meaning ensuring that any power used is generated not by fossil fuel, but rather clean energy sources.

This first of 3 DCP proposals is part of the city's plan to meet its climate goals by 2035 by updating current zoning codes. Many of the proposed zoning changes are urgently needed to help homeowners upgrade their properties to bring them into compliance with climate accords. Overall, officials are hopeful for a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, or "80 by 50." The primary goal is not only to reduce energy usage, but also move all energy needs to electricity. This involved "cleaning the grid," which entails that all electricity sources are clean energy sources such as wind or solar, and not backed by fossil fuels. Property owners that are required to retrofit will have opportunities to receive tax credits.

There are four main goals to the Carbon Neutrality proposal:

Goal 1: Decarbonize our energy grid by broadly allowing for distributed generation (wind + solar) as well as critically needed energy storage. To meet demand, as a city, we need to generate energy everywhere, so the goal to generate 1000 megawatts (MW) of rooftop solar energy production by 2030 has been set. (Note: 1MW of power is sufficient to power about 750 homes at once). Additionally, to store this clean energy and respond to growing demand, storage of gigawatts (1GW=1000 megawatts) of local energy will be crucial. The grid of the future will be less centralized than is what is currently in place with 'distributed resources' spread across the city.

Goal 2: Decarbonize our building stock by supporting the retrofitting of NYC's million plus buildings to become energy efficient and electrified. By 2040, NYC's energy grid must be 100% renewable energy source. Windows and walls will need to be improved or replaced with new efficient ones. Boilers and furnaces will need to be replaced with all electric heat pumps. To

decarbonize our building stock, virtually every one of our city's 1,000,000+ buildings will need to be retrofit. Large buildings (25,000 sf) that fail to cut their CO2 emissions will face steep fines. New buildings will be prohibited from installing fossil-fuel equipment. To help prepare New Yorkers, NYC Accelerator, a program of the MOCEJ (Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice) was created. NYC Accelerator provides free expert guidance and trainings. It also connects home and building owners to service providers and financing opportunities. For more information visit [www.accelerator.nyc](http://www.accelerator.nyc).

Goal 3: Decarbonize our vehicles by supporting the growth of EV (Electric Vehicle) adoption, biking, and E- mobility, by removing limits on where infrastructure can be placed. By 2035, all vehicles

sold in NYS must be EV and demand for charging will rapidly increase. Currently, one of the biggest hurdles to achieving EV adoption is finding a place to charge overnight, and so it is imperative that we start preparing for EV ownership now to increase infrastructure. Additionally, as a one to one transition to EV is not the solution, we also need to promote greater use of bicycles, e-mobility, car sharing, and mass transit.

Goal 4: Decarbonize our waste streams by supporting other City efforts to grow composting and rainwater collection. Currently, it is estimated that our waste stream only accounts for 4% of our City's greenhouse gas footprint but there are some clear steps to take. Reducing stormwater runoff also reduces the need for energy intensive stormwater treatment. By diverting organic material from the waste stream, we can reduce our solid waste by 45% as well as 50% of emissions from waste trucks to landfills. Supporting local food systems can also play a role in reducing CO 2 associated with food.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Fraade for providing insight into the reasons for the zoning text amendments and opened the floor for questions. Her first question was regarding electric vehicles and asked if there would be a requirement to eliminate gas operated ones. Mr. Fraade stated that there is nothing in the proposals that would affect older vehicles. Instead, the proposals seek only to enhance accessibility for EV vehicles to encourage their use.

Additionally, Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there are any plans to create electrical truck infrastructure or to electrify the city's fleet trucks to reduce truck emissions? She was informed that there are ongoing efforts to change parts of the city's vehicle fleet to EV, but they are not part of this proposal.

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner inquired what charge sharing stations would look like in brownstone Brooklyn and also what the side effects and dangers are of electricity storage stations (ESS). She was informed that they are still working on several components and that the Dept. of Transportation regulates street infrastructure and parking, but this document explicitly deals with amending zoning codes to release barriers for these things. She also asked how this plan will affect landmark districts. Mr. Fraade will have to get back to us with a response.

Additional questions that were not answered in the document and that Mr. Fraade could not directly address included concerns around non fossil fuel methods not being 100% safe, concerns around rooftop solar panels, ESS or batteries, additional density, and much more. Mr. Fraade reminded everyone that the document that he was speaking on is regarding the zoning code, which will not address the concerns, but rather the individual agencies tasked with oversight of those areas would have to create their own methodologies.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Fraade for the information and opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

## **Public Hearing**

### **SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Irsa Weatherspoon, Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, June 5, 2023 via Webex. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair, Akua Aidoo, Brian Saunders, Deborah Young, Dian Duke, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Gail Muhammad, Gib Veconi, Mark Thurton, Mary Woods, Mimi Mitchell, Nicole Tetreault, Roger Myers, Sharon Wedderburn, Tamika Gibbs, Frances Langley, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Michelle Bernabe.

The committee discussed the following new liquor license applications:

1. Provido Group LLC, d/b/a “Villager,” 841 Classon Avenue (between Lincoln Place and Eastern Pkwy) –Wine/beer/cider license

Details of the application for the Wine Bar include:

- 1 service bar with four seats; 3 tables with 20 seats; maximum capacity is 24
- Hours of operation are 5PM to 11 PM Sunday thru Thursday; 5 PM to midnight Friday and Saturday
- Recorded music
- Sidewalk café measuring 18’x16’ for a total of 288 sq ft with 4 tables and 8 seats with a maximum capacity of 20. Café proposed with the same hours as indoor space.
- Three total employers inclusive of a manager, bartender, and server

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the stipulation that the outdoor space close at 10PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday. The applicant agreed to the stipulation and the committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the community. Ms. Roach asked if any music would be played outside, and if so, is there a permit? The applicant informed her that there is no music, just a sonos speaker inside playing ambient music. Mr. Witherwax further clarified that as a committee, the Board does not approve any outdoor sound.

Dr. Lazur made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. Gees Caribbean Corporation, 770 Nostrand Avenue (between Sterling and St. John’s Places) – Full license

Details of the application for the grab and go restaurant include:

- Applying for a liquor license to take advantage of new drinks-to-go regulations
- Seeking methods of operation inclusive of DJ, karaoke, live music (non-amplified acoustic music) in case of any private parties, but not expected to have regular programming using these methods

- Maximum capacity is 45, but the establishment currently has only 5 tables with 10 seats
- Hours of operation 11AM to midnight daily

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the condition that speakers no greater than 100 watts be employed during private events. The applicant agreed to the condition, and the committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the community. Ms. Roach expressed concern about the excess of bars and lounges on Nostrand. She asked the proprietor how Gees was different, and how do they see themselves being successful compared to the others. She was informed that it is a unique brand with a strong community tie already, as they are the former owners of the closed Gloria's on Nostrand Avenue and Sterling Place.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if they would characterize the restaurant as an in-and-out or a grab-and-go? The proprietor stated that they do offer indoor dining, so they classify as an in-and-out.

Ms. Granville made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown-Henry and carried with a final motion of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

### **Youth and Education** – Marva Brown-Henry, Chair

On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, the Youth and Education committee met via WebEx at 6:15p.m. In addition to the Chair Marva Brown-Henry present were: Mark Thurton, Sharon Wedderburn, Nora Daniel, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Lillian Baptise, Ric Elliott Davis and Xeerxeema Jordan.

The committee reviewed a resolution about Smoke-Free Media. This resolution was submitted for consideration by Brittany Hale, who holds a Masters in Public Health and is the Youth Engagement Manager of Brooklyn Reality Check, a statewide health education and advocacy program aimed at combating tobacco and e-cigarette use. They are run through NYC Smoke-Free, a program of Public Health Solutions (PHS), the largest public health non-profit in the city. Ms. Hale made a presentation about her work to the committee at the May meeting. Importantly, a 2022 study by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 2.55 million US middle and high school students reported current e-cigarette use, and nearly half (46%) of high schoolers who vape do so almost daily, and young people are more 3x more likely to start vaping when exposed to commercial tobacco imagery in popular streaming and TV shows. Brooklyn Reality Check is working with statewide partners to educate communities on the negative impact of smoking scenes and tobacco use in movies, television shows, and social media platforms that are rated for youth. The goal is to protect children from the powerful influence of on-screen smoking and vaping imagery.

The resolution asks Brooklyn Community Board 8 to sign on so that it may be sent to the NYS Attorney General's Office, urging that office to explore solutions that can reduce or eliminate the depiction of smoking, vaping, e-cigarette use, and brand identification in entertainment and media venues. Specifically, calling on content creators to develop comprehensive anti-tobacco policies and share them with the public; running successful anti-tobacco and anti-vaping ads before and during shows, that feature tobacco imagery; certifying that the film industry accepted no tobacco industry payoffs in exchange for including tobacco depiction in a show; expanding

education, outreach, and research efforts to inform the public, parents directors, writers, and producers about the importance of keeping tobacco out of shows; calling on content creators to eliminate smoking and vaping in all new youth-rated films or productions.

The Youth and Education voted unanimously to support and sign the Smoke-Free Media Municipal Resolution as presented by Reality Check of New York and hopes the full board will do the same.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the community. Hearing none, Dr. Lazur made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and carried unanimously.

### **Environment/Sanitation/Transportation (EST)** – Robert Witherwax, Chair

The EST Committee met on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 via Webex at 6:15pm. In addition to the Chair Robert Witherwax, present were: Mark Thurton, Vice Chair, Brian Saunders, Carey Tan, Carol Krakowski, Celeste Stern, Chris, Conrade Welch, D Hudson, Danae Oratowski, Deborah Young, Delores Hutchinson, Derwin, Dr Audrey Baker, Elise, Ethel Tyus, Faith Williams, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, German School Brooklyn, Sonja Einoedter, Gib Veconi, Harris Krizmanich, I A Martinez, Irsa Weatherspoon, Ingrid Dudek, James Neville, Janel, Jay Crockett, Joseph Frazier, Kai, Karen, Katherine Pangaro, Kyle Gorman, Lee Eastmond, Lewis Anderson, Lewis Crown Heights, Linda, Lisa Maldonado, Madalyn Bethel, Marcus, Mark Thurton, Matt Polacheck, Matt Wells, Matt Wiecha, Maureen, Megan Robinson, Meredith, Mike Jones, Natasha D, Neliza Ruiz-Eliassaint, Nicole Tetreault, Nizjoni Granville, Nubia Benoit, Omar, Phyllis Grannum, Paul Shelby, Peter Krashes, Richard Muzio, Romel, Sam Livingston, Saskia Haegens, Shak, Traci N., Trina, Wendell, William Meehan, Woody, Cathleen Caron, Claudette Workman, Edgar, Frances Langley, Heather Raffo, Ian, James Mcdougal, Joshua Yates, Kathy, Michelle Chai, Naomi Barr, Princess Benn-James, Steffen, Xeerxeema Jordan and Jennifer Jordan.

At the February meeting, the committee heard a presentation by the family of NBA Hall of Fame Player, Roger Brown, seeking to co-name the northwest corner of Prospect Place at Utica Avenue in his honor. The family cites his resilience in bouncing back to have a successful professional basketball career after being erroneously kicked out of college and banned from the NBA for a point shaving scandal that he was ultimately exonerated for. Roger Brown played several seasons for the American Basketball Association (ABA) Indiana Pacers basketball team and retired with the team, and the Brooklyn USA Scholarship was formed in his honor.

Several individuals questioned Roger Brown's impact on CB8 and his relevance to the district. After a brief question and answer period, the committee voted 7 in favor, 1 opposed, with 5 abstentions to support the street co-naming request and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the community. Hearing none, Ms. Granville made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saunders and carried with a final vote of 35 in favor, 4 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Mr. Witherwax issued an apology via a statement for his use of the word "venting" in the EST meeting during the last presentation on the Underhill Avenue Bike Blvd. He stated that there were a number or better word choices and he chose the wrong word to use, for which he is deeply sorry. He acknowledged that the community has a right to voice and express their

concerns and felt that he provided that opportunity while moving the meeting along in a timely manner.

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner thanked Mr. Witherwax for the apology and stated that she would like everyone to show respect and decorum even if they don't agree.

Several residents of Underhill Avenue were present at the meeting and continued to express their dissatisfaction with the changes to Underhill Avenue.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their comments and opened the floor for committee reports and updates.

#### **Land Use** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Land Use committee met on Thursday, June 1, 2023 via Webex at 6:15pm. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Albert Appleton, Anika Roach, Betty Davis, Delores Hutchinson, Edward Delman, Elaine Weinstein, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Greg Todd, Jack Robinson, Nicole Laemmle, Karen Gray, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson, Lorraine Drummond, Mark Thurton, Mimi Mitchell, Nizjoni Granville, Phyllis Grannum, Peter Krashes, Pierre Albert, Princess Benn-James, Robert Callahan, Sarah Lazur, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and Xeerxeema Jordan.

The committee discussed the City of Yes: Carbon Neutrality proposed zoning text amendment. Members spent a substantial amount of the meeting discussing the drawbacks of several of the solar components, and mused that Local Law 97 would cause significant issues for property owners in the same vein as Local Law 152 did last year.

#### **Seniors** – Ms. Gail Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place at 6:00 pm. Ms. Muhammad announced that the seniors enjoyed a live band that had been sponsored by the Crown Heights North Association.

#### **Public Safety** – Mr. Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public safety Committee met on Monday, May 22, 2023 via Webex at 6:15pm. In addition to the chair Mark Thurton, present were: Anika Roach, Brittney, Jacques Brunvil, Janet Collins, Joseph Frazier, Lisa Atkinson, Lt Polanco, Mary Woods, Nicole Tetreault, Nizjoni Granville, Princess Benn-James and Xeerxeema Jordan.

Mr. Thurton announced that the committee discussed crime stats within the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, and that the precinct would be getting additional officers.

#### **Health and Human Services** – Ms. Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, May 18, 2023 via Webex at 6:15pm but did not submit a report. In addition to the Chair Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kimberly Watson, Vice Chair, Anika Roach, Dioris Valerio, Kim Robinson, Nizjoni Granville, Noah Potter, Richard Muzio, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Frances Langley, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Jennifer Jordan.

**Housing Advocacy** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The next meeting of the Housing Advocacy Committee will be held on June 14, 2023 via WebEx. Please check the CB8 website calendar for the meeting link. All are welcome to attend.

**Veterans** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Vice Chair

The Veterans committee met on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 via Webex but did not submit a report. In addition to the Vice Chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: Andre Cherigo, Princess Bann James, Tiffany Forte, Christopher James, Frances Langley and Xeerxeema Jordan.

**Economic Development** – Mr. Brian Saunders, Chair

The Economic Development Committee will meet Tuesday, June 13, 2023 via Webex. In addition to the Chair Brian Saunders, present were Drew Gabriel, Vice Chair, Kim Robinson, Mark Thurton, Mary Woods, Princess Benn-James, Conor Ross.

Mr. Saunders announced that the Job Fair held in May was very successful with over 40 employers in attendance and more than 400 job seekers registered for the event. He announced that several individuals were hired on the spot and there were many more that were hired a few days later after additional rounds of interviews.

**Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks committee met on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 via Webex at 6:15pm. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Colin Jakubczyk, Conor Ross, Elicia Howard, Eliza French, Ena K. McPherson, Karen Gray, Mark Thurton, Marva Brown-Henry, Princess Benn-James, Carolyn Johnson, and Frances Langley.

Ms. Andrews reported that Friends of Brower Park, Crown Heights North Association and Local Development Corp of Crown Height are sponsoring a Silent Disco on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 4-7pm at the Shirley Chislom circle in Brower Park. Free headphones are available to the first 100 people with ID.

Friends of Brower Park is celebrating Juneteenth Monday, June 19, 2023 from 11am-3pm. "Juneteenth in Brower Park 2023: Celebrating the Black Women's Movement. There will be music, dance, giveaways, and more!

Ms. Andrews announced that the Lincoln Terrace Park Tennis Association summer programs started on May 13<sup>th</sup> and lessons are held every Saturday at 10 AM. The cost is \$50 for kids and \$60 for adults for the season and rackets are provided to junior members. She stated that participants must also apply for the parks tennis permit to allow them to practice on the courts.

Brower Park Library Reopening Celebration will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 11:00 am and lastly, the One Crown Heights Festival will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2023 at Brower Park from 12-5pm. All are invited to attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committee chairs for their reports and opened the floor for elected official representatives and announcements.



**Mr. Orlando Ross** from Congresswoman Clarke's office thanked CB8 for the very successful listening tour. The Congresswoman is going around her district to meet, greet and listen to her constituents and also to discuss federal issues that concern you. The CB8 event was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at Crown Heights Apartments. He also mentioned that the historic Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Senate Democrats and signed into law by President Biden one year ago, is already having a huge impact nationwide, cutting costs for families and seniors, creating jobs, and taking historic action to fight climate change. The White House Inflation Act guidebook is available online.

**Ms. Deanna Foote** from Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso's office announced that the community is cordially invited to join the BP on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 12-6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. Come enjoy live Caribbean music, dance, performances, children's activities, literary readings, free tastings of Caribbean delicacies and more (while supplies last). Also, the Borough President has a new website! Visit <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/> for all BP related information.

**Ms. Kristen Rouse** from Congressman Dan Goldman's office announced that the Congressman has joined Congresswoman Meng in introducing the Hot Foods Act to expand access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This expansion will allow participants to purchase hot foods such as prepared rotisserie chicken, hot sandwiches, and soups. Currently, SNAP limits eligible purchases to foods for take-home preparation and consumption or cold prepared foods. Congressman Goldman also joined U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar in introducing the Universal School Meals Program Act. This legislation would provide free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to every student, expanding on the success of the universal free lunch programs implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and bringing long-term relief to millions of food-insecure families.

**Ms. Ana Garcia** from Councilmember Hudson announced that the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Project (AAMUP) report will be published soon. She thanked everyone that participated in the meetings and provided input and feedback.

**Ms. Arlean Gillin** from Councilmember Osse's mentioned several services available in the Councilmember's office located at 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 500. Housing Info with CUFFH Affordable Housing Services is held every Tuesday from Noon to 6 p.m.; Migrant Resource Day is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Migrants can apply for various services including WIC, transportation, housing, health insurance, immigration attorneys, and can even apply for a free cell phone or tablet; free Legal Immigration Advice will be offered on June 8th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins will be accepted.

Additionally, "City Chat with Chi" will be held on Saturday, June 24th from 1-3 PM at Somewhere Good located at 320 Tompkins Avenue and "Roll In Movie" will be held on Saturday, June 17th at 6 p.m.; Live music at 7p.m., movie screening of Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes at sundown at Herbert Von King Park located at 670 Lafayette Avenue. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 718-919-0740.

**Mr. Raul Rothblatt** from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham's office proudly announced that the Assemblyman has introduced 75 bills to the legislature. Also, Assemblyman Cunningham and Yvette Rennie invite you to their second annual Juneteenth: Our Continuous March to Freedom Celebration on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from Noon to 6 p.m. Meet at Flatbush Avenue Burial

Ground Coalition located at 2286 Church Avenue at Bedford Avenue and walk to Prospect Park Lefferts Historic House. Entertainment will be provided.

**District Leader Sarana Purcell** congratulated the newly elected CB8 officers and wished them well in this upcoming term. She reminded everyone that the Primary election coming up, and early voting makes voting much easier than ever. If you are interested in being a poll worker, please contact her, and she put her contact information in the chat.

**Ms. Venus Scantleberry**, Brooklyn Outreach Coordinator at the Civilian Complaint Review Board. The CCRB is an independent agency that is empowered to receive, investigate, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers alleging the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. The Board's investigative staff, composed entirely of civilian employees, conducts investigations in an impartial fashion. The Board forwards its findings to the police commissioner.

She also stated that in March the CCRB testified before the City Council on various occasions relating to the agency's budgetary needs. Interim Chair Rice stressed the need to increase the budget in order to maintain a quality response to police misconduct complaints and enhance the ability to close cases at faster rates. Also, the Executive Director testified in favor of bill intro number 09082023 which is sponsored by Speaker Adams, if passed would grant the agency access to NYPD body camera footage. In addition, resolution 541 which calls on New York legislators to give access to sealed records. There are also 2 additional bills (8730 and S06270) being considered that would make to agency exempt from ceiling statutes. She mentioned that the annual report has been released and available for review. Lastly, their monthly meeting was held at Restoration Plaza on May 10<sup>th</sup> and it was a great turnout. She also attended CB8's job fair on May 19<sup>th</sup> and it was great to interact with the community. Recruiters are currently looking over resumes from candidates that she made connections with.

**Mr. Emmitt Sklar** from the Public Advocates office stated that this is one of the most resilient community boards he has been to. He is happy to see over 60 people still on this meeting at this late hour. He stated that the Public Advocates office participated in CB8's job fair in May and spoke to a ton of people. They are excited to interview local residents and offer some job opportunities. He acknowledged Mr. Staton as the longest standing member of CB8 and mentioned that the Public Advocate asked him to present a citation. He will present it when the next in person opportunity arises. He gave a few updates: the city council just passed their bill; the Worst Landlord Law which is part of the Worst Landlord Accountability Act that is going to help prevent fraudulent repairs by bad landlords and increase accountability. They also held an advocacy day in Washington DC where they met with the federal congressional delegation seeking money to help with the migrant crisis in New York City. He also mentioned that his office has a constituent services team that help with a host of issues and problems with city government. Lastly, he urged everyone to tune into News 12 to watch their monthly segment called "Ask the Advocate" every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 7-8 pm where the Public Advocate will answer questions live on air.

**Mr. Hercules Reid** from the Mayor's office Community Affairs Unit announced that the Mayor's office is creating neighborhood support teams to address quality of life concerns like graffiti and noise. They are seeking input from the community via a form that he dropped in the chat. Mr. Reid provided an air quality update and advised people to remain indoors when they can, wear high quality N or KN95 masks, keep windows closed, and clean air conditioner filters.

**Ms. Alicia Pritchard**, Brower Park Library Branch Manager announced that Brower Park Library located at 155 Brooklyn Avenue (inside the Brooklyn Children’s Museum) will celebrate their grand opening on July 20, 2023 at 11am. They are happy and excited. The staffers are in the building shelving all brand new books for their collections and they can’t wait for the opening.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected official and agency representatives for their updates and opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Ralph Poynter read a statement that expressed his frustration with this new-age blockbusting strategies that city and private agencies are engaging in by over ticketing black and brown homeowners in an attempt to drive them out of their neighborhoods.

Ms. Deborah Young from the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) announced that they are hosting a Silent Disco on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 PM. Additionally, Destination Nostrand Unity Market will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Children's Museum Rooftop (145 Brooklyn Avenue, corner of St. Marks Avenue). Discover the diversity of Crown Heights with the North Nostrand Avenue Merchants Association with food, drinks, beauty, fitness, retail, resources, and fun. Admission is free and the first 50 guests receive a \$20 voucher to spend at any vendor’s station. For more information, call 646-580-8229 or 718-838-0513.

The next Crown Heights North Association general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:45 PM at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. Johns Place. The theme is 'Preparing for the Summer and Beyond,' and invited agency representatives include the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Con Edison.

Mr. Jason Atkins brought the Board’s attention to disruptive street closures along Eastern Parkway that create traffic nightmares for motorists.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their announcements and for participating in the meeting. She wished everyone a safe summer and adjourned the meeting at 10 p.