

**Community Board No. 8
Concern for Independent Living
151 Rochester Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

February 8, 2018

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Deshauna Appleton
Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Faith Corbett
Michael Cox
Diane Duke
Phu Duong
James Ellis
Fred Frazier
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Elijah Gray
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Brian Saunders
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Edison Stewart
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Mark Thurton
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Andrea Ferris
Robert Matthews
Adelaide Miller
Yahya Raji
Adam Sachs
Greg Todd
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Pedro Zapata

Elected Officials Present

Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, 35th CD

Elected Officials Reps

Elisa Helligar, Senator Hamilton
Emily Mateo, Assemblyman Mosley
Amanda Robinson, Assemblywoman Wright
Kathleen Daniel, BP Adams
Judith Destin, KCDA Gonzales
Josh Pierre, NYC Comptroller Stringer
Tavia Mapp-Deterich, Assemblywoman Richardson
Alishia Goodridge, Assemblywoman Richardson

77th Precinct

Capt. Abraham Sanabria, Executive Officer
Sgt. Bertram, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer
Det. Sacha Pierre-Louis, Community Affairs
PO Laverne Green, Community Affairs

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:10 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She wished everyone a Happy New Year, since she was absent from the January meeting. She asked Mr. Wayne Bailey, Sergeant at Arms, to go over basic housekeeping rules.

Acceptance of Minutes

Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for a welcome from Concern for Independent Living.

Concern for Independent Living (CIL) – Ms. Leoni Archer, Program Director

Ms. Archer informed the Board that it is always a pleasure to host general meetings. She thanked CB 8 for supporting CIL and its projects, and announced that the organization is currently working on a housing project for veterans in Coney Island. The projected date of opening for the facility has not been determined as of yet.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Archer and informed her that CIL is a welcomed commodity in the community because of its beneficial programs for those in need, and also because their facilities are well maintained and operated. She stated that CB 8 is happy to support future endeavors in any capacity it can. Ms. Granville next asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. The committee continued discussing its upcoming Training Fair. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association. All are invited to attend.

Health/Human Services – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson

The Health/Human Services Committee met on Monday, February 5, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Minutes for the meeting were not submitted to the District office, but Mr. Mensah announced that at the last meeting, the committee heard a presentation from an official from the Kings County District Attorney's office, who discussed domestic violence and violence against elders. He also announced that the committee continues to discuss the planned agriculture event scheduled for April 2018.

Additionally, in June, the committee, along with the Parks Committee, will host its annual Health Fair at BNIA. If you have any comments or questions regarding the health fair, please email bcb8healthfair@gmail.com. He cautioned everyone to work on building the gluteus maximus muscles as they age, for stronger muscles in this area can assist with posture, back pain, and gait.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Housing – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Housing Committee met jointly with the Land Use Committee on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend, especially those with housing issues.

Land Use – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chairperson

The Land Use Committee did not meet in the month of February because it did not have any agenda items. Ms. Tyus announced that this could conceivably become the norm for the committee if the Landmarks Preservation Commission's amendments and rules changes are adopted. She stated that the proposed changes would lead to more staff level reviews and fewer opportunities for the Community Board to weigh in on applications. The main proposed rule change will give a blanket approval to all 2 story rear yard additions. At the March meeting, the committee will discuss the rules changes that were emailed to all committee members, and prepare a statement on behalf of the Board. Going forward, the Land Use Committee will continue to see regulatory items and ask committee members to do any necessary research to be informed for the meeting. She pointed out that all applications for agenda items are emailed to the committee days in advance.

Additionally, she stated that property owners need to pay attention to the failure to reauthorize the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit and NYS Historic Preservation Tax Credit for commercial spaces. Each tax credit gives a 20% tax cut for renovations. Unfortunately, the provisions will sunset at the end of December 2019 if not renewed. The Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) is petitioning Senator Montgomery and other electeds to reauthorize the credits, which will have to be completed by this April. Ms. Young, President of CNHA, will seek signatures for the petition during and after the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Livable Streets – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chairperson; Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Vice Chair

The Livable Streets Committee met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, present were: Isaac Blasenstein, Julia Boyd, Ainslee Dublin-Scott, Holly Fuchs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Regina Kinsey, Frances Langley, Robert LaPointe, Meredith Staton, Edison Stewart, Mark Thurton, Greg Todd, Deborah Young, Kate Lyon, James Ellis, Justin Wood, and Nina Sabghir.

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. James Ellis, Executive Director of the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (NFBID), and Ms. Katie Lyon, Consultant, BJH who are seeking support for an application before the Public Design Commission to install 70 planters along Flatbush Avenue (from Atlantic Avenue to Plaza Street) in an effort to "green" the avenue. The pair explained that the existing trees along the corridor are aging and unlikely to be replaced given the subway infrastructure that exists on the strip. The plan includes combining small trees and shrubs with seasonal plantings selected in consultation with a third party vendor and based on recommended plantings given by the Departments of Transportation & Parks Recreation. The NFBID seeks to install a 36inch high, 48inch square planter that will support a central small tree or shrub, and will be complemented by 6-15 perennials and annuals. The NFBID will work with a third party vendor to conduct the necessary 2-3 seasonal plantings per year and to weed and water the planters as needed. Eleven (11) letters of support for the project were submitted including one from Councilmember Brad Lander.

The committee voted 14 in favor of supporting the green project in the hopes that the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Mensah asked how tall the trees in the planters would be when fully grown, and also if there is a chance that the tree roots will cause damage to the infrastructure. Mr. Witherwax explained that the planters are not part of the sidewalk, but instead rest atop it. Therefore, there will be no damage to the infrastructure. Mr. Ellis informed him that the NFBID is working diligently with experts to decide the types of trees to make an appropriate selection for the community.

Ms. Wedderburn asked who will pay for the project and what is the length of the maintenance contract. Mr. Ellis stated that the project is supported under a pilot program and will be funded by the BID's budget. Once installation happens, the first two phases are very costly, but after that it is merely a matter of simple maintenance. As of now, the project has not been approved by the Public Design Commission. It has an estimated cost of installation of \$100,000.

Mr. Doung asked how aesthetic decisions are made for the planter. Mr. Ellis stated that the specific design was brought by the Dept. of Transportation based on how it would fit with the streetscape. They decided upon styles and space that are designed and intended to support tree growth.

Mr. Staton asked who is responsible for the cleaning of the planters. Mr. Ellis stated that maintenance will be done with the supplemental sanitation contract that the BID has while the health and well-being of the plants and trees themselves will be maintained by the horticulturist.

Mr. Stewart asked if any other organizations in and around the District or Brooklyn are doing this. He was informed that the NFBID is the pilot, but there are a few other locations under consideration for the project. He stated that unlike planters seen in parts of the city, especially in Manhattan, these are meant to be permanent planters instead of the temporary ones in place in other locations.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried with a final vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions, with 1 recusal.

The committee also heard a presentation from Mr. Justin Wood, Community Organizer/Environmental Justice Advocate for New York Lawyers For The Public Interest, Inc. (NYLPI), whose organization is embarking upon a quest to reform the private sanitation system. Mr. Wood explained to the committee that the private carting system can cause many problems in communities. He listed some of the problems of the private carting system and some of the plans the organization is proposing to regulate the industry.

Additionally, the committee finalized their street co-naming guidelines and discussed housecleaning items.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Thomas Montford, Donna Algood-Walls, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Lawrence Brown, Carolyn Johnson, Robyn Berland, Vilma Zuniga, Christina Ashby, Julia Boyd, and Rene Swint.

The committee had an in-depth discussion about the problems arising at Brower Park due to dog owners not reigning in their pets. Ms. Berland of Friends of Brower Park reported that her dog was attacked multiple times at Brower Park and that dog owners are not cleaning up after their dogs as legally required to do. The "scoop the poop" clean-up retrieved approximately 50 pounds of dog feces from around the park on January 27, 2018. The amount of dog waste collecting in the park is unhealthy, and the committee believes the Parks Department needs to pay more attention to the matter.

In an attempt to rectify these issue(s) the committee would like to meet with the Parks Brooklyn Commissioner (Marty Mahr's office) to start a discussion about this situation. Ms. Andrews stated that she would invite Parks Borough Commissioner Marty Maher to the next scheduled meeting on March 6, 2018 at St. John's Recreation Center at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

Public Safety – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, January 22, 2018 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, also present were Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Mark Thurton, PO Green, Judith Campbell, Xeerxeema Jordan, Frank Hodgson, Lorraine Clark, Faith Corbett, and Judith Destin.

The committee discussed ongoing community complaints so that Community Affairs officer Green could look into them. They also began preliminary discussions for a safety event in the future. Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) meetings will be published on the NYPD's website in the future so that the community can access them.

Ms. Langhorne acknowledged Mr. James Caldwell, President of the 77th Precinct Community Council and Mr. Wayne Bailey, President of the 78th Precinct Community Council (and CB 8 member). She acknowledged the presence of the 77th Precinct Community Affairs officers Det. Pierre-Louis and PO Greene, Executive Officer, Capt. Abraham Sanabria, and Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) Sergeant (Sgt), Sgt. Bergtraum. She asked Capt. Sanabria to give a brief update.

77th Precinct – Captain Abraham Sanabria, Executive Officer

Capt. Sanabria provided an update on crimes in the 77th Precinct. He stated that in 2017, the 77th Precinct was Number 4 overall in crime reduction in the city and Number 1 in Brooklyn. He thanked residents for their assistance in working with officers. So far in 2018, the precinct is continuing with the downward trend, down double digits in almost all categories except grand larcenies. There has been an increase in scams, especially ones involving Con Edison. He cautioned that Con Ed will never call saying you owe them money, and most definitely would never request that you pay immediately via a gift card. He urged people not to fall for scams of people calling saying they need money to bail relatives out of jail. Instead, call the relative to see if they are OK.

Larcenies have also increased. Package deliveries such as Amazon orders are getting stolen at an accelerated pace. If you can, have a neighbor accept your package rather than having it left outside your home. Additionally, you can have it delivered to Amazon Locker or UPS locker. Doing this will help the crime rate and reduce your headache of dealing with stolen packages and disputes. Also, if you lose your wallet, call the bank immediately and cancel the cards. While chips in credit cards have assisted with certain thefts, an actual lost or stolen card can be used immediately until reported to the company. Furthermore, beware of selling or buying on Facebook and Craigslist, popular sites for buying and selling. Meet somewhere with a lot of people so you can be safe during the transaction. People are actually being robbed of their goods and money.

NCO Sergeant, Sgt. Bertram stated that the department is in the process of moving away from calling the NCO program a program. All but a handful of the City's precincts have an NCO program. The NCO program breaks down each precinct into 4 or 5 sectors, and there are officers assigned to these specific sectors that you can reach out to them directly for assistance. In the last year, the program has worked very effectively in the 77th Precinct, and positive feedback has been given by the community. He informed the Board of "Build the Block," formerly known as neighborhood summit meetings, which occur quarterly. Visit www.buildtheblock.nyc to find the officers for your section where you live or work and the date, time, and location of their next meeting to meet the officers and inform them of any problems.

Mr. Staton stated that he noticed that some of the officers have transferred out of the program or precinct. He asked if Sgt. Bertram can make sure the new officers stop in the stores so people can know who the new officers are when they are assigned. He was informed that the new officers do try to visit the stores and shops to introduce themselves. Any transferred officers are replaced the very next day.

Ms. Corbett stated that she recently reached out to Officers Marte and Phillips for a problem she was having in her area. She stated that she appreciated the assistance of the officers. She asked if there were any way to get additional patrols on the strip of Schenectady to Utica Avenues from Atlantic Avenue to Park Place as that particular area is very dim and has a lot of unseemly activity. It is not a safe place to walk. Sgt. Bertram and Capt. Sanabria both said they would bring the request to Deputy Inspector Abbassi's attention.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chairperson

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Essie Spivey, Frances Langley, Norma Glover, Leola Mills, Yvonne Bailey, Doreen Turner, Faye Jones, Denise Elliott, Marvette Franklin, Annabelle Boyd, Mary Hodnett, Clarine Miller, William Rodgers, Sheila Ovid, Martin Wade, Dennis Brown, Patricia Washington, Pearl Mikel, Mary Bonham, Hazel Hurley, Tavia Mapp, Glinda Andrews, Edison Stewart, and Xeerxeema Jordan.

The Chair organized several fun activities for the seniors, including "Black History Bingo." Ms. Branch-Muhammad invited all seniors and anyone that desired to grow into a senior to join the committee and attend meetings. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All are invited to attend.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC) – Mr. James Ellis, Chairperson; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice-Chair

The SLAC committee met on Monday, February 5, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch- Muhammad, Dian Duke, James Ellis, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Atim Oton, Brian Saunders, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, Deborah Young, and Stacey Sheffey.

The committee discussed the following applications:

A. Renewals

1. Eat Morris (Brooklyn Children's Museum), 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner St. Marks) – Full (rooftop)
2. Tygershark, 581 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean/Pacific) – Full
3. Rose's, 295 Flatbush Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) – Full (garden/grounds)
4. Franklin Park, 618 St. John's Place (corner Franklin) – Full (patio/deck)
5. Cass West Indian, 135 Kingston Avenue (Bergen/St. Marks) – Beer/Wine/Cider

The committee voted to support all five renewal applications in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if there were any issues brought to the attention of the committee by the NYPD for any of the renewals. She was informed there had not been any.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

B. New Applications

1. Chipotle, 347 Flatbush Avenue (corner Prospect Place) -- Full

- i. Hours of Operation: 10:45 AM to 10:45 PM daily
- ii. Seats: 44 seats at 13 tables
- iii. No outdoor space

The committee voted 13 in favor to support the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

2. Creative Square, 154 Utica Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) -- Beer/Wine/Cider

- i. Hours of Operation: 10 AM to 12 AM daily
- ii. Seats: 48 at 8 tables
- iv. Special event space
- v. Small rear yard to close 10 PM daily during warm weather months

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The committee also heard a presentation for St. Ends located at 667 Franklin Avenue, but tabled the item pending further information.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Youth and Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chairperson; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Ms. Wedderburn announced that the Youth Fair, Youth Explosion: The Me of We, will be held on May 19, 2018 at PS 316 located at 750 Classon Avenue. The fair will focus on how youth fit into the community, conversations centered on civic duty and advocacy, financial literacy, SYEP, how not to go through the penal system, and many others.

The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and invited Councilmember Laurie Cumbo to say a few words.

City Council Majority Leader – Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, 35th Council District

Majority Leader Cumbo stated that she is excited to attend the meeting in two new capacities: first as a mother and second as Majority Leader, an honor for her as the first African American woman to hold the position. She stated that being Majority Leader means that she has a bigger role in the Council budget. She announced that

applications for discretionary funds are due by February 20th. Also, this year she invited the community to participate in the participatory budgeting process. Participatory budgeting is a good way to get access to funds to determine how to spend the money for much needed things in the community.

There was a very disheartening and disappointing hearing on public housing. Over 80% of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents reported heating and hot water incidents over 48 hours. Council members met to make sure that type of incident never happens again as they pose very dangerous and demoralizing conditions for the residents, especially in light of how cold it is. We need to fight and make sure that NYCHA is quality housing that no one should be ashamed to live in and not 3rd world quality.

Councilwoman Cumbo announced the closure to the saga of the Jewish Hospital housing development. Over 600 units of affordable housing were maintained. There was also closure on another controversial project with the Bedford/Union armory, which is located in Community Board 9. What started out as 18 units of affordable housing for the Crown Heights community for the income band of \$22k-\$57k for a family of 4 has increased to 250 units of affordable housing. 10% of the affordable units have been set aside for those transitioning from homeless shelters. As part of the project, there will be space for six not-for-profits in the building as well as the creation of a world class, state of the art recreational facility that will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool and soccer field among other things. The Brooklyn Medical Plaza will have space in the building as well. At least 720 construction jobs will be created in a project that also has a retail component. However, the Majority Leader stated that she is most proud about providing affordable low income housing. She thanked all of the community advocates for fighting for equality within the project.

Mr. Staton asked if there is a timeline for the recreation center or a sunset date. He was informed that operation of the center will be membership based. Details are still being worked out, but memberships will be available for \$10/month for residents in community boards 8 and 9. Membership will allow access to the pool, weight training, etc. The recreation center will open before the rest of the facility opens. It will be the first part of the project that is completed.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that NYCHA is also enduring a city wide problem with bedbugs. The Majority Leader agreed and said that residents in the agency's developments are experiencing issues with bedbugs, mice, and roaches. She provided an anecdote of a family in Queensbridge Houses, where the apartment was inundated with roaches. She stated that NYCHA has many things to do for their 450,000 residents. We need to hold NYCHA accountable; we cannot just change faces within the agency. We have to actually work on a new structure and overhaul the agency. Commissioners cannot come from outside in; rather, we need people to work their way up, as those are the ones with the best understanding of what the agency needs and where it falters.

Returning to the discussion to the Bedford/Union armory, Mr. Thurton asked what the total number of units are in the project, when it will start, and what is the cost. He was informed that the project should start by June, but if all the funding cannot be secured in time, it will start by September. The recreation center should take up to 24 months to complete and the entire project should take 4 years. There are still things that need to be developed and funding to be secured before starting. There will be approximately 410 units, of which 250 will be affordable. The project went from 20% low income to 60%. Unfortunately, the full project could not be affordable because the 40% of market rate units are needed to maintain the facility and the recreation center. Every year, the Council has to think about whether they need to close a facility for lack of funding. With this project, entities wanted to have a continuous revenue stream to ensure this facility stayed open.

Ms. Tyus asked if the federal government is up to date with their share of the funding for NYCHA. The Majority Leader unfortunately stated that the answer to that question is a "glaring no." The federal government has maintained the NYCHA debt in the billions of dollars. The process by which NYCHA got to where it is, is called "demolition by neglect." With the lack of care and investment, it creates a situation where anyone in a leadership position there is automatically going to fail. The amount of divestment in NYCHA is putting the

agency in dire straits. What we do not want to see is the NextGen project to utilize NYCHA by private developers property to offset costs of maintenance.

Furthermore, Ms. Tyus asked for clarity on the law that stated that NYCHA residents should have first opportunity to NYCHA jobs. She was informed that the law is found in Section 3, but more oversight is needed. It is all dependent on ensuring that people are held accountable for their actions to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. Cox asked if there is going to be an update on the NextGen plan. Councilwoman Cumbo stated that she has not heard it yet. It is necessary to hear how NextGen is unfolding in each Council member's district. In the 35th Council District, Ingersoll Development has a NextGen project that has almost over exceeded what the MWBE required. That being said, we need to look at the program in entirety.

Councilwoman Cumbo also stated that she would like to bring forward the topic of housing lotteries to the Council. She stated that her office often receives telephone calls from people that do not qualify, get called and then hear nothing further, get rejected, get knocked out, etc. of the lottery process and really do not understand the housing lottery. As a community, we need to make sure that people that apply for affordable housing from the community get a fair shot at getting the housing to keep them in the neighborhoods they call home.

Mr. Stewart asked what the incentive/exchange was to get the 60% affordable component in the armory. He was informed that when the project first came out, developers were looking to not use city funding and wanted all costs to be developer funded. However, through negotiations, the city, via Mayor deBlasio, put forward \$52 million to get the 60% affordable housing. There will be a tax abatement as part of the project. There was immense pressure on the Mayor because the 35th Council District is the largest voter turnout district in Brooklyn. It is a district that cannot be brushed aside.

Mr. Ellis questioned the \$52 million in subsidies and asked if there would be additional tax abatements on what was originally city-owned property. He was informed that the developer was given a long-term 99 year lease. They will have to pay \$2 million a year for the duration of the lease and will be required to give a community benefit to maintain the property. If they give enough memberships to CBs 8 and 9, it will discount the amount of the \$2 million that needs to be paid each year. They have to be able to provide \$1.5 million in community benefits, and if they do not live up to that arrangement, they lose the lease to the space. Therefore, it is in their best interest to provide the community benefit, which will keep the project affordable long term.

A community resident asked if the city accepted bids from non-profit developers. The resident was informed that the initial bidding was an "open call," and non-profits did not participate or respond to the initial RFP (request for proposal). However, after community outcry over the lack of affordability, non-profits started expressing interest but the city did not re-issue the RFP. This particular project is worth a quarter of a billion dollars and many of the non-profits in the city have not developed anything on this magnitude and scale. The challenge is to diversify and change the dynamic of non-profits in the community to increase their infrastructure and ability to participate in projects such as this.

Ms. Granville thanked Majority Leader Cumbo for the very important update and opened the floor for elected official representatives, public comments, and announcements.

Public Comments

Ms. Kathleen Daniel from Borough President Eric Adams' office announced that the deadline for membership application is February 15th. If you need assistance or want to check that your application was received, please text your inquiry to 347.620.4158. In the text, include your first and last name and "CB 8."

There is free tax preparation services available at Boro Hall. The schedule of dates and times is available at www.brooklyn-usa.org. The BP has also introduced a mobile shower service program, which is a mobile bus with showers and toiletries for the homeless or members of multiple family households (households with multiple families rooming together in one unit). The application deadline for capital funding is February 12th. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the BP allocated \$107 million to 207 different budget projects across all 18 Brooklyn CBs. If you want funding for FY19, submit your application by the 12th as there is money available and many projects in need of attention. Additionally, you can become a Certified Opioid Overdose Responder by completing a training course. You will be given a kit to carry on your person in case you come across someone in the middle of an overdose. For training dates, please check the BP's website. Finally, Ms. Daniel announced that Colon Cancer Awareness month starts March 1st. There will be events to raise awareness about the disease. Again, check the BP's website for more information.

Ms. Emily Mondale from Assemblyman Mosley's office announced that the Assemblyman's State of the District address will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 6 to 8 PM at St. Joseph's College, 245 Clinton Avenue (between Willoughby and DeKalb Avenues), Brooklyn. Please RSVP to daviselliotg@nyassembly.gov or call 718-596-0100. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP so the office can get an accurate count of the amount of people who will be attending in an effort to keep track of what is needed for the event.

Ms. Elisa Helligar from Senator Hamilton's office announced that on February 22nd, the Senator is hosting a Notice of Property Value Workshop at St. Gabriel Senior Center located at 331 Hawthorne Street at 7 PM. For more information, call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700.

Mr. Josue Pierre from Comptroller Scott Stringer's office announced two reports that the Comptroller recently issued. One is "Making Rent Count," issued a few months ago that would allow rental payments to be applied to credit reports. While there are many people that pay their rent on time, it is not reflected on their report, which is used to either approve or deny any and all applications, including those for affordable housing. In this era, we cannot get anywhere without good credit. Credit, or the lack thereof, is one of the many things that prevent underprivileged communities from lifting themselves up. Implementing initiatives such as this has the potential to chip away at things holding back communities of color. For more information, visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov>.

Ms. Alishia Goodridge from Assemblywoman Richardson's office announced that she is the Acting Chief of Staff while Jamila Pringle is out on maternity leave. She introduced Ms. Tevia Mapp-Deterich as the new liaison for CB 8. Ms. Goodridge stated that the information for Vital Brooklyn is available on the Assemblywoman's website. Most of the land mass included by Vital Brooklyn falls in the 43rd Assembly District. Vital Brooklyn is imperative to the community as the plan includes new and affordable housing, recreation, and health services for the Central Brooklyn community. The Assemblywoman is seeking a good portion of the money made available in the plan for the 43rd AD. The proposal will be discussed at the next Civic Minded meeting, which occurs the 4th Saturday of every month. For more information, contact the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105

Ms. Judith Destin from the Kings County District Attorney's (KCDA) office reminded the Board to save the date for the KCDA's Black History Month celebration on February 27th at 6 PM at St. Francis College located at 180 Remsen Street (between Clinton and Court Streets), Downtown Brooklyn. RSVP to communityaffairs@brooklynda.org or call 718-250-3888. Also, as liaison, she announced that she and other representatives from the DA's office are available to come to different community meetings on behalf of DA Gonzalez to inform people of many initiatives, including human trafficking, sex abuse, predatory lending, etc. If you would like her to attend a meeting, please contact her 718.250.2580.

Mr. Mark Rybakov of Independence Care System announced that the organization helps seniors and people with disabilities receiving Medicaid stay in their home for as long as they can before being removed for hospice or nursing home care. As a community, there might be many individuals that are in need of the services they offer. He stated that he is looking to connect with organizations or institutions that work with seniors in the community. If you are interested in partnering with Independence Care System, please call him at 646.653.6442.

Mr. Michael Cooper from IMPACCT Brooklyn stated that he is an Apprentice Community Organizer with the organization that assists tenants with tenant's rights and housing development. IMPACCT Brooklyn offers free assistance with housing issues, including first time homebuyers workshops, housing lotteries seminars, and the like. There is a plethora of free information available to those that need it. They are located at 1000 Dean Street. For more information, please call 718-522-2613.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and reminded all representatives and liaisons that the District office sends an email to them each month seeking submissions for the monthly newsletter. She urged them all to take advantage of the opportunity to send flyers in advance so that they can be added to the newsletter, distributed to the list serve, and added to the website. Also, doing so would reduce the amount of time at the meeting needed for them to make announcements, and would also eliminate the need for them to rush through their announcements. She then adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7 PM at 1000 Dean Street (between Franklin and Classon Avenues), Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Shirley Mondesir
Douglas H.
Jessica Brever
Hazel Hurley
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Katherine Perko
G.E. Hall
James Caldwell
Tanaria McLauren
Karolin Betances
Joan Claude-Bernague
Makeba Junior
Nellie Crick
Mark Rybhkol
Phyllis Graham
Nadine Davis
Sarah Lazur
Sabrina Soto
Shentaure Curtis
Carolyn Johnson