

**Community Board No. 8
Saint Teresa of Avilla Roman Catholic Church
563 Sterling Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

January 11, 2018

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Faith Corbett
Phu Duong
James Ellis
Andrea Ferris
Fred Frazier
Elijah Gray
Cyrstal Hudson
Xeerxeema Jordan
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Atim Oton
Adam Sachs
Brian Saunders
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Edison Stewart
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Pedro Zapata
Vilma Zuniga

77th Precinct

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

Members Absent/Excused

Deshauna Appleton
LeeAnn Banks
Julia Boyd
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Michael Cox
Dian Duke
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Mark Thurton
Irsa Weatherspoon

Elected Officials Present

Ola Alabi, 57th Assem. District Leader

Elected Officials Reps

Reginal Belon, Congresswoman Clarke
Amanda Robinson, Assemblywoman Wright
Shakti Robbins, Senator Montgomery
Daryl White, Public Advocate James
Elisa Helligar, Senator Hamilton
Kathleen Daniel, BP Adams
Emily Mateo, Assemblyman Mosley
Judith Destin, KCDA Gonzales
Matthew Pitt, Councilwoman Cumbo

CB 8 Staff

Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant

In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, the general meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Robert Witherwax, 2nd Vice Chair. He welcomed everyone to the first Community Board 8 meeting of the new year and asked for a roll call.

Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the December minutes with any corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Mr. Witherwax invited Ms. Thomas from Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City to make a presentation.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City – Ms. Bridgette Thomas, Community Outreach Coordinator

Ms. Thomas announced that the mission of the organization is to provide children who are facing adversity in the city with one-to-one mentorship with adults. Their goal is to inspire positive change in children. Mentoring volunteers must make a service commitment of one year. Mentoring sessions will take place twice a month for 4 hours each session. Some contracts may last longer than one year. If you are not able to fully commit, there are affinity groups that are dedicated to recruitment and retaining people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is always focusing on education initiatives and seeking support for kids between the ages of 7 and 17 years old. If you know any children who fall within that age range, please contact Ms. Thomas at 212-686-2042 ext. 252.

Mr. Witherwax thanked Ms. Thomas for the information and invited Mr. Mike Jones from the New York Fire Department up to speak about the importance of fire prevention and safety.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) – Mr. Mike Jones, Firefighter

Mr. Jones expressed the importance of fire safety and having necessary precautions in place in the event of a fire. He stressed that many people do not understand why smoke detectors are important and that many children have not been made aware of the signs that a fire has started in their homes because they do not recognize the sounds that smoke detectors make when smoke is detected. He stated that most fires occur between the hours of 11PM and 7AM, which is the time that most people are asleep. If there is a fire in the house but the detector is not working, it can be extremely dangerous for sleeping individuals. He added that when metals, carpet and some other materials are set on fire, they have the ability to put you into an even deeper sleep because of the chemicals in them.

He stated that the FDNY has partnered with the American Red Cross, who installs smoke detectors in homes for free. Over \$100,000 has been allocated to the program to provide this service throughout New York City. The program was started because the free smoke detectors that were being distributed by the FDNY were not being properly installed. The City Council passed a law stating that all newly installed smoke and combination detectors must have a lithium battery that will make changing batteries unnecessary. The new detectors have a life span of 10 years and must be replaced after that. The American Red Cross will come out and install smoke detectors for homes in need. They also provide these services to homeowners of multi-family homes and are willing to install a detector in each bedroom and on each floor of the house. For additional information regarding this program and how you can become a candidate, please contact the American Red Cross at 1-877-RED-CROSS. Translation services are available to those who need them.

In light of this information, Mr. Jones asked that the community to make sure that they have smoke detectors and test that they are in working condition. You can use a broom handle to press a button on your detector to

check that it beeps properly. If your detector is beeping or chirping constantly that may be an indication that the battery is dying. Regular battery operated detectors need to be changed every 6 months.

Lastly, Mr. Jones provided the following tips to ensure fire safety:

- Avoid placing smoke detectors in the kitchen
- Place all detectors in or near the room where you sleep
- Detectors should be placed on the ceiling at least 4 to 12 inches away from any wall
- Detectors should also be placed at least 15 feet away from the bed where you sleep
- All families should devise a fire escape plan that enables them to meet outside in the event of a fire
- Consider getting a combination detector which can also detect carbon monoxide which is odorless
- Keep detectors away from ceiling fans and mist aerosols. They are unable to distinguish between aerosols and smoke.

Mr. Mensah asked where combination detectors should be placed. Mr. Jones stated that they should be placed within close proximity of your sleeping area. If you reside in a basement, he instructed that you keep these types of detectors at least 15 to 20 feet away from a fossil fuel boiler because they give off a small level of carbon monoxide which can cause the detector to go off. He added that carbon monoxide detectors are very effective and great to have. They can last anywhere between 5 and 9 years. The combination detectors that the Red Cross is installing will last 10 years and should be discarded afterwards.

Mr. Witherwax thanked Mr. Jones for the wealth of information and acknowledged the members of the 77th Precinct who were in attendance. He opened the floor to Mr. Mensah, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and representatives from Interfaith Hospital to give an update on a request for support for a service relocation.

Interfaith Hospital – Ms. Susan Kleinrock, Vice President of Behavioral Health & Ms. Sajida Sutton, Rep.

Mr. Mensah mentioned that Interfaith Hospital is looking to relocate some of their physical health services from the main hospital at 1545 Atlantic Avenue to the Bishop Walker site at 528 Prospect Place in Brooklyn.

Ms. Sutton stated that Interfaith has several sites, however, the reason for the relocation is due to size constraints at the current location and a matter of convenience for the patients who seek certain types of physical services. Some of these services include, but are not limited to, substance abuse, medical, psychological, and psychiatric care services.

Interfaith believes that these changes are necessary because studies have shown that patients live 25 years shorter than they should because they are not getting the specialty care they need. The relocation of services to one facility will allow patients in need of multiple physical services to seek all the care they need at one location which would eliminate the inconvenience of traveling between different locations, and also eliminate missed followup appointments.

Mr. Staton inquired about the amount of space that will be available to patients at the Bishop Walker site. Ms. Sutton responded that there is sufficient space at the Bishop Walker location. She added that the services in question will occupy the third floor of the building.

Ms. Oton asked what demographic is currently being served at Interfaith. Ms. Sutton stated that the majority of their patients come from Community Boards 3 and 8. They also get many patients from the zip codes surrounding Interfaith, the Bronx and other areas of New York City.

Mr. Witherwax asked how many people will be on staff at the Bishop Walker site. Ms. Sutton stated that the full medical team will be comprised of 27 people including medical professionals and aides.

Mr. Witherwax thanked Ms. Sutton, Ms. Kleinrock and Mr. Mensah for the information and asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development Committee – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, January 3, 2017 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Ms. Atim Oton, present were: Ashley Warmington, Yahya Raji, and Edward McWilliams.

Members of the committee were assigned roles for the Training Fair which includes event outreach, flyer design, and programming.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Health & Human Services Committee – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 8, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY.

The committee discussed plans for the 3rd Annual Health Fair which will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at BNIA from 11 AM to 2 PM. The fair will offer an array of services and focus on home based agriculture in which Ms. Taitt-Hall will share her experience and ideas on growing her own foods. In addition to the Health Fair, they are planning a community supported agriculture event in April 2018. Details about this event are still pending.

The committee also met with representatives from Bishop Walker Health Center, who are seeking a support letter for their interactive health services. The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Housing & Land Use Committees – Ms. Nizjoni Granville & Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chairs

The Housing Committee and Land Use Committee had a joint meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY.

They discussed the following application:

1. Application to LPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA) to Construct a Two-Story Rear Addition and Rooftop Addition to 565A Carlton Ave (Prospect Heights Historic District) (LPC-19-17675)

Owners Adam Dahill and Christian Bunce/KGBL presented their plan to expand 565A Carlton Avenue to provide additional living space to a new owner. According to LPC, the two-story Italianate brownstone rowhouse was constructed c. 1869 – 1880 by an unknown architect according to LPCs 2009 designation report. The owners plan to expand the gross floor area from the current 2,160 square feet to 2,300 square feet by adding a two-story full-width rear addition, as well as a rooftop addition. The materials presented indicate that the planned additions will not be substantially visible from any public thoroughfare. The building is currently a one-family dwelling and will remain so after the addition. The rear façade project plan includes:

- Using concrete modular units (CMUs – i.e. cinder blocks) finished with grey stucco;
- Using window casings finished with a brass/bronze patina and maintaining the alignment of the fenestration with that of the adjoining rowhouses;
- Using stainless steel tension wire railings for the decks/balconies on the lower two floors;
- Maintaining the integrity of the top floor mass by having the balcony door look like a window; and
- Using a lighting plan that puts a sconce on either side of a single door on each of the three decks.

The primary façade will also be restored and that particular component of work received a Certificate of No Effect under LPC-19-15246 on 8/16/17. The owners reported that a date for the rear façade project hearing has not yet been set. On motion made and seconded, the committee voted to support the project with seven in favor, four abstentions, and zero opposed. It hopes the full Board will support the committee's recommendation.

Mr. Staton asked if the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) was in support of the application. Ms. Tyus responded that PHNDC will be providing a letter of no objection to LPC regarding this application. Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote of 26 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next Housing Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY. The next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

Livable Streets Committee – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair

The Livable Streets committee did not meet for the month of December. The next Livable Streets Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Glinda Andrews, present were: Donna Algood-Walls, Robyn Berland, and Thomas Montford.

Ms. Andrews announced that the committee is currently planning an event to shed light on global warming. She also encouraged everyone who has not already gotten rid of their Christmas trees to bring them to Brower Park for disposal.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM at St. John's Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair

The Public Safety Committee did not meet for the month of December due to the Christmas holiday. The next meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

Seniors Committee – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, present were: Essie Spivey, Frances Langley, Norma Glover, Dorreen Turner, Annabelle Boyd, Ivy Anderson, Yvonne Bailey, Crystal Hudson, Andrea Ferris, Leola Mills, Vashti Bentinck, Mary Hodnett, Estelle Rogers, Faye Rogers, C. Alexander, and Regina Kinsey.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad encouraged everyone to participate in some of the programs being offered by the Brooklyn Public Library like the “Our Streets, Our Stories Project”, which allows longtime residents to tell their stories about their experience with living in the borough. For more information about this project and its guidelines, please contact Ms. Taina Evans, Coordinator of Adult Services at 718-230-2100.

The committee also discussed the importance of health and is planning to put more emphasis on the topics of healthy eating and exercise in the months to come. They are also planning to invite a specialist who is experienced in chair exercises.

Ms. Kinsey reminded everyone about Black History Month and placed emphasis on the importance of Senator Hamilton and Assemblywoman Diana Richardson's Black History Education Bill which was created following the abduction of an Alabama native woman named Recy Taylor, who was gang raped in 1944. In 2011 the Alabama State Legislature issued a formal apology to Ms. Taylor. However, she never got the justice she deserved. In light of this and Black History Month, the committee agreed to highlight a historical moment in Black History at future meetings.

The next Seniors Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC) – Mr. James Ellis, Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, January 8, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to Mr. James Ellis, Chair and Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair present were: Cheryl Brown, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Stacey Sheffey, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following applications:

1. **Renewal Application for Bar Sepia, 234 Underhill Avenue (Lincoln/Eastern Pkwy) – Full License (rear yard)**

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

Mr. Witherwax thanked the owner, Ms. Delissa Reynolds, for her continual support and contribution to Community Board 8. Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final vote of 30 in favor with none opposed and 1 abstention.

2. **New Application for Zig Zag, 1075 Bergen Street (near Nostrand Avenue) – Beer/Wine/Cider License (no outdoor space)**

Details of the application are as follows:

- a. Hours of Operation: Closed Monday; Sunday, Tuesday through Saturday 5 PM to 11 PM
- b. 12 seats at 6 tables, an additional 8 seats at 1 operable customer bar, and 1 service bar
- c. Soft background music to be played

The committee voted 13 in favor to support the application as presented and hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Ms. Benn-James questioned if there was a church within the vicinity of the business. Mr. Ellis clarified that there is a funeral home nearby but no church within 200 feet of the business. Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried to a final vote of 30 in favor, none opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next SLAC committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Youth & Education Committee – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. The committee did not submit an official report but Ms. Wedderburn announced that the Youth Fair has been moved to May 2018. The official day, time and location are still in the process of being determined.

The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7 PM at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY. All are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Witherwax thanked the committee Chairs for their reports and opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments

Ms. Elisa Helligar from Senator Jesse Hamilton's office announced that on Saturday, January 13, 2018 and Monday January 15, 2018 the Senator will be launching Brownsville Hip 2B Healthy Market and Farmstand at 85 Watkins Street near Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 10AM to 2PM. Please contact 917-697-3745 for additional information.

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018, the Senator will be providing immigration services which include Relative Petitions, Citizenship/Permanent Residency, New Green Card Applications, Extension of Visas, Re-entry Permits, Employment Authorization/Petitions and Free Legal Consultation. Sessions will take place at his office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd floor, Brooklyn, NY from 12PM to 3PM.

Lastly, Ms. Helligar announced that on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 Senator Hamilton will be having a Seniors Workshop to offer services like assistance with the HEAP (Heat Energy Assistance Program). The workshop will take place at Saint Gabriel's Church which is located at 331 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, NY from 6PM to 8PM. Please contact his office at 718-284-4700 for additional information.

Mr. Reginald Belon from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's Office announced that the Congresswoman has been the front runner on issues pertaining to immigration. Mr. Belon mentioned that scholarships and grants for students are now available through Black Caucus groups. Please contact 718-287-1142 for additional information.

Ms. Kathleen Daniel from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams Office wished everyone a happy new year. She announced that on Monday, January 15, 2018 there will be the Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr event at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) located at 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 10:30AM to 12:30PM. Tickets to the show are free upon early arrival. Space is limited.

She also announced that the Borough President will be having a Day of Action for senior and disabled homeowners on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 10AM to 4PM at Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY. This event will assist qualifying senior and disabled homeowners with annual incomes of \$58,399 or less to apply for Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) or Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE).

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 the Borough President will also be sponsoring his 3rd Annual Healthy Cooking Workshop at Borough Hall from 6PM to 8PM. Participants will learn how to prepare affordable and delicious plant-based recipes and how to make healthier lifestyle choices. To RSVP for this event, please call 718-802-3798.

Ms. Daniel reminded everyone that the appointment and reappointment applications to Community Board 8 are due by Thursday, February 15, 2018. For additional information, please contact her at 718-802-3771.

Ms. Shakti Robbins from Senator Montgomery's office announced that the Senator is focusing on school based health centers. Last year, the funding for them was cut from the budget. School based health centers are important because they provide comprehensive care to children in school free of charge.

Senator Montgomery is also pushing for the passage of the Construction Notification Bill which is being sponsored by Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright. Bill #A05823 "requires notice to adjoining owners of construction or demolition work at the time such application for approval is submitted".

District Leader Ola Alabi announced that there are a few upcoming events being held in the central portion of Brooklyn in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday. Most of the events are free and will be held between Saturday January 13th and Monday, January 15th. Details about these events have been sent to Community Board 8. Please call the office at 718-467-5620 for additional information.

She also announced that tax season is here and that you can seek free tax preparation services from the Department of Consumer Affairs if you fall within the income eligibility guidelines. Please call 311 for more details.

Mr. Irwin Forbes encouraged everyone to allow their High School aged children to take the Specialized High School exam. He stated that 8th graders have the traditional high school application and an additional application for specialized and elite high schools. The exam has been proven to be difficult but his organization can provide students with the tools they need in order to pass the exams. His organization guides parents through the admission process.

Additionally, too often, students can be very intelligent, and intelligent enough to get into the specialized high schools but show up unprepared for the entrance exams and consequently do poorly on them. All students should be encouraged to take the test and not settle for a traditional high school.

Ms. Judith Destin from the Kings County District Attorney's Office announced that she is the new representative for Community Board No. 8. She will be replacing Ms. Karen Crawford. She invited everyone to subscribe to the Kings County District Attorney's monthly newsletter to stay informed. She can be reached at 718-250-2580 or you can log on to www.brooklynnda.org.

Ms. Emily Mateo from Assemblyman Walter Mosely's Office announced that their 5th Annual Youth Job Fair and Career Expo will be taking place on Friday, January 26, 2018 at 55 Hanson Place on the 9th floor from 10AM to 3PM. Please call 718-596-0100 for additional information.

Mr. Matthew Pitt from Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo's Office thanked everyone who has supported the Councilmember throughout the years as she has been named as Majority Leader in the Council. She hopes that this honor will allow her to restore resources throughout the community,

Mr. Pitt announced that they will be having a Council Funding Workshop on Monday, January 29, 2018 from 7PM to 9PM at Medgar Evers College in the E.O.J. auditorium located at 1638 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. This workshop is for those who operate a not-for-profit organization and want to learn more about the funding process or for people who generally want to understand how the City Council allocates its funds. Please contact 718-260-9191 for additional information.

Ms. Amanda Robinson from Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright's Office announced that the NYS Tax Relief Program (STAR) is now available to all property owners who own their primary residence. An appointment can be made for Wednesday, January 17, 2018 between 12PM and 2PM for assistance with the application process.

Ms. Robinson also provided a list of safety tips for seniors to avoid harassment, a safety checklist to ensure safety in the home and a stack of parking calendars for the year 2018. Please call the Assemblywoman's office at 718-399-7630 for more information.

Mr. Witherwax thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting of Community Board 8 at 8:30PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn. All are encouraged to attend.

GUESTS

Linda Ferrette
Frances Langley
Sharonie Perry
Adam Dahill
Karolin Belanco
Shirley Mondesir
Robyn Berland
G.E. Hall
Hilary Lyons
Irwing F.
Ade Cox
Amanda Blair
Makeba Junior
Roy Simmonds
Cherie Washington
Shakia Rollock
Susan Kleinrock
Sajitha Sutton
Victoria Ayo
Sajida Sutton