

**Community Board 8
Public Hearing
Agency Responses to Capital and Expense Budget FY 2019
1000 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

March 8, 2018

The Public Hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2019 was called to order at 7 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She stated that in September, the Community Board submitted its Capital and Expense budget priorities and requests to the Mayor, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and elected officials. These items were compiled from community input, committee recommendations, and complaints received by the District office.

We are holding this hearing to gather community responses and input on the agency responses to the budget requests. The preliminary Capital and Expense Budget items for Fiscal Year 2019 were sent to all Community Board Members and the community for review prior to the meeting. Ms. Granville asked Mr. Witherwax, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Tyus and Ms. Weatherspoon to read the requests and agency responses to the Capital and Expense Budget Items.

Ms. George asked everyone to hold their comments until all the items had been read. She asked everyone to clarify the item number and indicate whether their comment relates to a Capital or Expense Item.

Mr. Ellis, commented on Capital Item #14, requesting that the agency review the HPD property across from 535 Dean Street which is vacant and up for development because it would be an ideal site for the 78th precinct parking lot.

Ms. Wedderburn, commented on Capital Item #6, stating that the agency responded that funding for part of the request is recommended however, it does not state which part is recommended. She suggested that they make sure that they are going to assign the things that are approved for the new middle school that replaces the previous school.

In reference to Capital Item #14, Ms. Connie Lesold encourages the NYPD to use public transportation as an alternative to driving because it would eliminate the issue of parking congestion.

Ms. Perko commented on Capital Item #3's agency response and stated that there are Housing NY apartments being rented out via www.streeteasy.com at unaffordable rates due to the fact that local community members are unable to afford them. The very fact that they have to be advertised on sites such as www.streeteasy.com suggests that the efforts of the city to provide affordable housing options to local community residents has been minimal or nonexistent.

She also commented on Expense Item #5 which states, "The administration's efforts to date have stabilized the number of people in shelters, which is trending downward" is an outright lie. Numerous recent articles have surfaced showing that New York City has never spent more money on a problem like housing and homelessness and that there has never been so many homeless people in this city than right now. Even though people have moved out of shelters, they are being pushed into hotels which does not solve the underlying issue of the homeless obtaining permanent housing. More than \$1 Billion was allocated to address the issue of homelessness yet the rate of homelessness continues to increase. She added that these priorities have been placed in the top 5 of the budget list for a reason and should be treated with a certain sense of urgency and seriousness.

Ms. Tyus, commented on Capital Item #2 and stated that the Comptroller recently issued a study which listed over 1,000 vacant lots in the city and proposed that the community board strongly recommend to the Mayor that they be leased to agencies at no cost so that they can build permanent low-income housing.

In response to Capital Item #5 regarding the renovation of PS 243 located at 1580 Dean Street in which the DOE has stated that it is “unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time”, Ms. Benn-James expressed how important it is to fulfill the very first renovation request for the provision of a new Public Address (PA) system as the current one does not reach the entire building. In the wake of the numerous mass shootings in schools across the country, it is imperative that every school has an operable public announcement system. If Sandy Hook taught us anything, it is that children are not immune to gun violence. In addition, other requests include new classroom doors as the existing ones do not close and consequently cannot be locked. In the case of an emergency, a school under lockdown needs to be able to secure students in classrooms with lockable doors to keep students as safe as possible in that situation. It is heinous to imagine a scenario where children that attend this school could be willfully placed in danger because the agency responsible for ensuring their safety could not prioritize funding at this time. Furthermore, buckling gymnasium and cafeteria floors pose an imminent threat to student health. This request needs further consideration and the demand for prioritization is high.

A resident commented on Capital Item #2 stating, with the focus on low-income housing for low-income families, it deflects from the lack of housing options available to the middle-income population. For middle-income families it is always portrayed that they are equipped to afford low-income housing rates which are impractical for both the low and middle income populations. There is a need for more middle-income housing options because everything available seems to only cater to the low and high income populations.

Another resident commented on Capital Item #3 by stating that the response from the city that they “will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources” also describes the problem which is that there are no existing resources in terms of available affordable options to solve the housing issue for low income families. It seems that they have less influence over the affordable housing in private sites than they do public sites like the Bedford Union Armory.

Mr. Cox, in response to Capital Items #1, #2, and #3 suggested that the agency provide an assessment of the growth projection for this community district. As we know the city is projected to reach 9 million people at some point but it’s not clear to the community where an influx in population will be concentrated. If it so happens that they are concentrated around the 2 or A subway lines they might be a part of this community district which will exacerbate the resources of the district so that is why a growth projection assessment of the neighborhood is necessary.

**Community Board No. 8
1000 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

March 8, 2018

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Deshauna Appleton
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Helen Coley
Faith Corbett
Michael Cox
Dian Duke
Phu Duong
James Ellis
Fred Frazier
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Xeexema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Adam Sachs
Meredith Staton
Edison Stewart
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

LeeAnn Banks
Julia Boyd
Adem Bunkeddeko
Andrea Ferris
Elijah Gray
Robert Matthews
Stacey Sheffey
Mark Thurton
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Pedro Zapata
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials Present

Senator Jesse Hamilton, 20th Senate District
District Leader Ola Alabi, 57th Assembly District

Elected Officials Reps

Rev. Eddie Karim, Assemblywoman Walker's Office
Kim Robinson, Councilmember Samuel's Office
Crystal Hudson, Councilwoman Cumbo's Office
Amanda Robinson, Assemblyman Wright's Office
Bella Pori, Assemblyman Mosley's Office
Elisa Helligar, Senator Hamilton's Office

77th Precinct

P.O. Staffa, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer
P.O. Giglio, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer
Sgt. Bertram, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer
P.O. Frisch, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer
Det. Sacha Pierre-Louis, Community Affairs
PO Laverne Green, Community Affairs
Det. Lynch, Neighborhood Coordinating Officer

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 7:45 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the general meeting of Community Board 8 and 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 Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for a welcome from Mr. Jonathan Butler. Mr. Butler welcomed everyone to 1000 Dean Street and expressed how happy he was to host the Community Board meeting. Ms. Granville then invited Mr. Caldwell, Community Coordinator from CORE Services to say a few words.

CORE Services – Mr. James Caldwell, Community Coordinator

Mr. Caldwell announced that the Bergen House men's shelter located at 1173 Bergen Street, Brooklyn is a facility that temporarily houses homeless male Seniors age 62 and up. He stated that the Bergen House is currently seeking programs for the seniors to use their talents that can be shared with the community. Mr. Caldwell also introduced some of the seniors and asked for assistance from the community in seeking permanent housing for them. He mentioned that if anyone has knowledge of apartments for rent within Community Board 8 please reach out to him at 917-689-0747. Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Caldwell for his announcement and invited District Leader Ola Alabi and Senator Jesse Hamilton up to say a few words.

District Leader Ola Alabi – 57th Assembly District

District Leader Alabi announced that Primary Day is approaching. The date has been changed to September 13th, 2018 because the normal date would be conflicting with 9/11. This was passed by the State Legislature. She encouraged everyone to go out and participate in voting.

District Leader Alabi also announced that on Thursday, March 22, 2018 there will be a Town Hall meeting at the Teen Challenge Center located at 444 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn at 6 PM. She encouraged everyone to come out and meet the candidates who will be running for civil court and supreme court judgeship and thanked the community board for distributing the information about her upcoming event.

Senator Jesse Hamilton – 20th Senate District

Senator Hamilton gave an update on legislation that was passed in Albany:

- “Raise the Age” which addresses the dangers of minors (16 and 17 year olds) being tried as adults in the state of NY
- “Brianna’s Law” which makes it mandatory for police officers to get CPR training every 2 years.
- Criminal Justice Reform bill which enables the sealing of criminal records for non-violent crimes
- The 4th bill will make it mandatory for NYC children to learn about African American history from Kindergarten to high school year-round.
- The 5th bill aims to hold New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) accountable for the conditions of their apartments.

Senator Hamilton is working hard at tackling the housing crisis. He highlighted the recent openings of 5 new hotels in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Homeless people should not be housed in hotels as an alternative to not being able to afford housing. There is a school in Brownville where at least 49% of the students are from homeless shelters. He will continue to fight for those who are being directly affected by the housing crisis and remain an advocate for affordable housing in Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Brownsville, Park Slope, Flatbush, Sunset Park, and Gowanus, Brooklyn, NY.

Lastly, Senator Hamilton reported that \$1.4 million in funding was allocated to SUNY Downstate, Kingsbrook Jewish, Brookdale, and and Interfaith Hospitals.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi and Senator Hamilton for their remarks and opened the floor to public comments.

Public Comments

Mr. Troy Walker announced that he is one of 1,800 local community members currently on strike against Spectrum cable company which has been going on for the last 11 months. He stated that since Spectrum started it has maintained a bad reputation. It has provided slower internet service than promised thus violating telecommunications laws. It has also raised rates without increasing the services it provides to its users. In addition to that, it has become notorious for the ill treatment of its employees. There are currently many lawsuits against Spectrum and now it is threatening to eliminate employee participation in retirement and hospitalization plans in order to have their health coverage revoked.

Mr. Walker encouraged residents and community members to sign and support his petition to have a NYC cable option as opposed to utilizing Spectrum cable. The petition is also to stop the renewal of Spectrum's Franchise contract.

Ms. Bella Pori from Assemblyman Mosley's office announced that on Saturday, March 10, 2018 Assemblyman Mosley in conjunction with Councilwoman Cumbo, Congressman Jeffries, Senator Montgomery, and Brooklyn Borough President Adams will be hosting their 2nd Annual Summer Youth Resource Fair at University Settlement Ingersoll Community Center located at 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn from 12PM to 4PM. For additional information regarding this event contact Domonique Bryant at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Pori also announced that Assemblyman Mosely has been a strong advocate on recent legislation in Albany addressing the gun loopholes. In light of all the recent school shootings that have taken place throughout the United States, New York State elected officials have been taking steps to close some of the gun loopholes in our state. Some of the legislation that has been under review include laws that will extend background checks for people purchasing firearms. As opposed to a 3 day background check it will take 10 days.

Another piece of legislation will prevent individuals who have been victims of domestic violence from buying guns. Research shows that a high percentage of mass shootings are committed by individuals who shoot their family members which is a clear indicator that they might commit a mass shooting. Ms. Pori encouraged those who may have a relative or know someone who can be a danger to go to a judge and get an order preventing them from purchasing a firearm. These initiatives are now up for review by the Senate. If you have any questions please call the office at 718-596-0100.

Ms. Bernell K. Grier from Impact Brooklyn announced that they are a community development corporation that provides affordable housing information, community organizing assistance, financial assistance and tax preparation to Brooklyn residents. They also assist tenants with tenant's rights issues and offer first-time homebuyer workshops. For more information about the organization, log onto www.impactbrooklyn.org, call 718-522-2613 or visit their office at 1000 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Deborah Young from the Crown Heights North Association announced that the organization is seeking new members who may be interested in taking on special community projects which promote advocacy for things like historic preservation and local business growth. She stated that they will also be having a free shredding event on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 991 St. Johns Place from 10AM to 2PM. For additional information please call 718-774-3834.

She also announced that they will be having a Meet and Greet event on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at King Thai Restaurant located 1095 Bergen Street from 3PM to 6PM. It will be a casual and fun event that will allow old and new Crown Heights residents to meet their neighbors and share their interests in the preservation and history of the neighborhood. For more information please call 917-309-6853.

Ms. Amanda Robinson from Assemblywoman Wright's office announced that the Assemblywoman will be hosting a Women and Health Workshop on Sunday, March 18, 2018 where the community can learn about and receive self and infant care post-pregnancy. There will also be an infant massage class. The event will be held at the LIFE Wellness BK Center which is located at 376 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn at 2PM.

She also announced that they are seeking nominations for their Women of Distinction Award ceremony. They are looking for women who have impacted the community in a great way so that their efforts can be celebrated. She encouraged everyone to fill out a nomination form and submit it to their office via mail at 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216 by Monday, March 19, 2018. The event will take place on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn at 7PM. For additional information, please call 718-399-7630.

Ms. Amanda Blair, a resident spoke on behalf of the "Let NY Vote" Coalition which focuses on bringing early/same-day voting registration to New York State. She stated that New York State has the lowest voting rate in the nation. One of the reasons why is because New York State has not changed its voting laws in over 100 years. Governor Cuomo has allocated \$7 million of the budget to bring early voting to NY this year. She encouraged the community to fill out the postcards and mail them to your State elected officials offices and to come out to the Rally for Early Voting event which will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Foley Square located at Duane Street (between Lafayette and Centre Streets) New York, NY 10013 at 2PM.

Ms. Crystal Hudson from Councilwoman Cumbo's office announced that she is the new Chief of Operations at the Office of Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo. She reminded everyone to come out to the 2nd Annual Summer Youth Resource Fair on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at University Settlement Ingersoll Community Center located at 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn from 12PM to 4PM.

Ms. Hudson also shared that Councilwoman Cumbo is currently sponsoring a bill called the "Stop Sexual Harassment in NYC Act" which aims to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to mandating anti-sexual harassment training for private employers.

Lastly she announced that Councilwoman Cumbo's office will be offering free tax preparation services on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 55 Hanson Place, Suite 778, Brooklyn from 9AM to 4:30PM. For more information please call 718-260-9191.

Ms. Elisa Helligar from Senator Jesse Hamilton's office announced that on Friday, March 16, 2018 they will be having their 4th Annual Shirley Chisolm Women of Excellence Awards at St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf which is located at 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn at 6:30PM.

Also, on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 they will be having a Housing Assistance and Tax Lien Workshop at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 1208 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, NY from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. For more information, call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700.

Detective Lynch, Neighborhood Coordination Officer of the 77th Precinct announced that on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 the next Build the Block Meeting will be held at Union Temple located at 17 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn at 7PM. He invited everyone to come out and partake in the building of mutual respect and stronger communication between police officers and the communities they serve. You can visit www.buildtheblock.nyc and find the officers that cover the section where you live or work along with details about the next Build the Block meeting.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for the information and asked the following committees to submit written reports:

Economic Development Committee – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The next Economic Development Committee meeting has been rescheduled due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services Committee – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the chair Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were Judith Destin, Mahalya Mary, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Glinda Andrews, Noah Potter, and Shalawn Langhorne. Minutes for the meeting were not submitted to the District office. The next meeting will be Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Housing Committee – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Housing Committee met jointly with the Land Use Committee on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, present were: LeeAnn Banks, Dian Duke, Xeerxeema Jordan, Robert Puca, Yahya O. Raji, Brian Saunders, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Yves Vilus, Sarah Lazur, and Taria Mapp Detenile.

The committee discussed their goals for the year. They also did a review of tenants rights. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend, especially those with housing issues.

Land Use Committee – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chairperson

The Land Use committee met on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the chair Ms. Ethel Tyus, present were: Faith Corbett, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Adelaide Miller, Katherine Perko, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Kevin Kehler, and Tavia Delevaria.

The committee discussed the following Landmarks Applications:

1. Community Board Comments on Proposed Rule Changes by Landmarks Preservation Commission

Comments on the proposed Rules changes are due to the LPC by March 27th. The Committee agreed to produce a set of draft recommendations that will mainly serve to provide notice to the Community of project applications that are to be reviewed at Staff Level when, under the current Rules a hearing for a Certificate of Appropriateness is required. The Committee also discussed how to get the support of the affected City Council Members for maintaining notice to the Community for projects affecting historic districts and landmarks. A small Google Group was formed to share preparation of the comments to LPC after ratification by full Board on 3/8/18.

Ms. Tyus stated that all public comments on the rule changes are due by Tuesday, March 27, 2018 and that comments are essential because these rule changes threaten to prohibit community input.

Ms. Granville stated that the proposed changes to the existing rules would negate a great deal of the preservation that we have fought for and the community will lose its ability to comment on many proposed changes.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to ratify the changes and send a letter to the Landmarks Preservation Commission on behalf of the community. It was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried to a final vote of 32 in favor, none opposed, with no abstentions.

2. Application to LPC for a CoA to Replace Windows at 265 New York Ave. (Crown Heights Historic District)

Mr. Kevin Kehler, R.A., presented the owner's plan to replace the double-hung aluminum windows with tilt and turn windows constructed with a double-hung appearance but that will be much more energy efficient. Retaining the appearance of a double-hung window for the replacement windows preserves the continuity of fenestration shown in the 1940's tax photo for this contiguous streetscape of limestone rowhouses. Mr. Kehler explained that the entry door would remain the same and that the breezeway (an opening in the primary façade at ground level) will be converted to a window, also for energy efficiency. Mr. Kehler represented that no other changes to the primary or rear façades are contemplated by the owner at this time. (NB: DoB files show an ALT1 applications from 12/2017 disapproved but pending for structural work and adding a bulkhead.)

As permitted under Robert's Rules when a quorum is lacking, on motion made by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Staton, the committee members present voted unanimously by a show of hands to support the window replacement project with the acknowledgement that the recommendation to support the application must be ratified by the full Board. We hope that the full Board will support the committee's recommendation.

Mr. Ellis asked for clarification on whether or not the new windows will be comprised of wood or if they will be going back to what they were originally. Mr. Kehler responded that the replacements will be a replica of the original windows.

Ms. Gibbs asked about the status of the December 15, 2017 alteration application. Mr. Kehler responded that in December 2017, the owner wanted to do a bulkhead expansion but changed his mind within the last two weeks and ultimately decided to withdraw the application but it has not been officially withdrawn yet. The work that they currently want to do is front and interior work.

Mr. Ellis also asked if bulkhead work is something that would normally come before the community board for review. Ms. Tyus responded that it would. Mr. Ellis then made a motion supporting the changes to the windows only with the stipulation that they return to the community board for review for any additional work. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried to a final vote of 31 in favor, none opposed with, 1 abstention.

3. Application to LPC for Work at 132 New York Ave

No appearance was made and no plans were submitted to the Community Board 8 office concerning the LPC application for work at 132 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Update on M-Crown Sub-Committee

The M-Crown Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, March 26, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM.

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

The Livable Streets Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Mr. Robert Witherwax and Vice Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Ainslee Dublin-Scott, Phu Duong, Alan Gerber, Xeerxeema Jordan, Robert LaPointe, Meredith Staton, Edison Stewart, Mark Thurton, Greg Todd, Deborah Young, Celeste Stein, and Drew Murphy.

The committee discussed ideas that were on the table for what the official name of the committee should be. They also identified committee projects that should be outlined for Community District 8 which they plan to take action on. These projects will address sanitation, transportation and environmental concerns throughout the district such as enforcement, traffic, trash maintenance, rodent abatement, speed humps, and more.

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

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Dorothy Bemby-Guet, Shalawn Langhorne, Thomas Montford, Carolyn Johnson, Kelvin Lomax, Robyn Berland, and Suzanne Hill. No report was submitted to the Community Board 8 office for this committee meeting. The next Parks and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place at 6:30 PM.

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, February 26, 2018 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. No report was submitted to the Community Board 8 office for this committee meeting. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at the 77th Precinct located at 727 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chairperson

The Seniors Committee did not meet for the month of March due to inclement weather. The next Seniors Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments which is located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. 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, March 5, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch- Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, Dian Duke, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Dane Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Renewals

- a. Branded Cattle Saloon, 603 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner Bergen Street) – Full License (sidewalk café)
- b. Tin Kettle, 611 Vanderbilt Avenue (St. Marks Avenue/Bergen Street) – Full License (rear yard)
- c. Sweet Brooklyn, 608 Nostrand Avenue (Atlantic Avenue/Pacific Street) – Full License (live music)
- d. Stratosphere, 227 Utica Avenue (St. John’s/Sterling Places) – Beer/Wine License (live music)
- e. Silver Rice, 638 Park Place (corner Franklin Avenue) – Beer/Wine License (sidewalk café)

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

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions and 1 recusal.

2. New Applications

a. **St. Ends, 667 Franklin Avenue (corner St. Marks Avenue) – Full License**

- i. Hours of Operation: 4 PM – 2 AM daily
- ii. 56 seats at 17 tables, 1 bar with 14 seats
- iii. Rear Yard on application, to close 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday; 11 PM Friday and Saturday
- iv. Involved in local events such as Social Justice Book Club and free space for artists

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the application in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if the precinct was able to provide an assessment of the activity of the establishment. Mr. Ellis responded that an assessment was not provided. Mr. Todd inquired about the previous usage of the space. The representative responded that two years prior to their ownership of the building it was being operated as a church.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 29 in favor, none opposed, with 4 abstentions.

b. **Cuatro Rios, 759 Nostrand Avenue (corner St. John’s Place) – Beer/Wine/Cider License**

- i. Existing Establishment
- ii. Hours of Operation: 10 AM to 9 PM daily

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the application in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried with a final vote of 29 in favor, none opposed, with 4 abstentions.

c. **Crown Heights Mozzarella, 265 Troy Avenue (Lincoln/St. John’s Places) – Full License**

- i. Existing Establishment
- ii. Hours of Operation : 9 AM – Midnight Sunday thru Wednesday; 9 AM – 1 AM Thursday thru Saturday
- iii. No outdoor space

- iv. Private events (small wedding related gatherings) accepted

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the application with the stipulation that no bottle service be allowed at the establishment. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Todd inquired as to why the establishment is applying for a liquor license after only being open for 6 months. The representative stated that there has been an increase in demand for alcoholic beverages at the establishment and that is the reason why they are seeking a full license.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

d. Whiskey Melt, 583 Vanderbilt Avenue (near Dean Street) – Full License

- i. No outdoor space
- ii. Agreed to stipulation of closing by 2 AM Sunday thru Thursday and 3 AM Friday and Saturday
- iii. Will open at 11 AM Saturday and Sunday; Noon Monday thru Friday
- iv. 44 seats at 11 tables; 20 seats at 1 bar

The committee voted 13 in favor with 1 opposed to support the application with the stipulated hours. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Lord asked what was there before this establishment. Mr. Ellis stated that it used to be a soccer bar. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 3 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

3. Alterations

a. Olmstead, 659 – 661 Vanderbilt Avenue (Prospect/Park Places) – Full License

- i. Existing Establishment that is expanding next door
- ii. Adding private dining space indoors and some seats outdoors
- iii. Rear Yard / Garden subject of discussion
 - 1. Local residents: noise from yard, light from yard, noise from fan
 - 2. Proprietors heeded, and will respond

The committee voted 13 in favor with 1 opposed to support the alteration application with the stipulation that the outdoor service cease at 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday. It hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Ms. Perko asked how many seats will be in the outdoor space. Mr. Ellis responded that there were already 25 existing seats and that there will be 12 additional which will give them a total of 37 seats including the outdoor space.

A resident asked about the nature of the concerns the neighbors have with the establishment. Mr. Ellis stated that there were concerns regarding noise due to the establishments exhaust fan which is currently being remediated and that there was also a lighting issue that the owners have already agreed to resolve.

Mr. Stewart asked for clarification about the conditional hours of operation. Mr. Ellis clarified that the establishment currently has a closing time of 10:30 PM from Sunday to Thursday and 12AM on Saturday and

Sunday but with the expanded space the proprietor has agreed to a closing time of 10PM from Sunday to Thursday and 11PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 24 in favor, 5 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, April 2, 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, March 6, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Ms. Sharon Wedderburn and Vice-Chair Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were: Yves Vilus, Yahya O. Raji, Laurel Dagrosa, Xeerxeema Jordan, Pamela Harman, Kimberly Watson, Tarves Lord, and Audrey Taitt-Hall. No report was submitted to the Community Board 8 office for this committee meeting. The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending. She announced the next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7 PM at Weeksville Gardens Community Center located at 1640 Pacific Street (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues), Brooklyn, NY and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

GUESTS

J. Mike Hessell
Constance Lesold
Dorothy Bembry Guet
Kevin Kehler
Cornelius Skeahan
Willie Frierson
Hideki Kato
Basia Kurlender
Celene Rosado

G.E. Hall
Nicole Fonsh
Katherine Perko
Amanda Blair
Kabakov Levi
Bernell Grier
Sarah Lazur
Tanasia McLaurin
James Caldwell

Josh C.
Anthony Taylor
P. Edwards
G. Edwards
A. Joseph
Ethan Smythe
Alexis Segal
Paul Rufen-Blanch