

**Community Board 8  
Calvary Community Church  
1575 St. Johns Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**May 10, 2018**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Helen Coley  
Dian Duke  
James Ellis  
Andrea Ferris  
Fred Frazier  
Tamika Gibbs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Elijah Gray  
Xeexxema Jordan  
Tarves Lord  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Atim Oton  
Robert Puca  
Adam Sachs  
Brian Saunders  
Edison Stewart  
Mark Thurton  
Greg Todd  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax

**Members Absent/Excused**

Deshauna Appleton  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Faith Corbett  
Michael Cox  
Phu Duong  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Elaine Mahoney  
Robert Matthews  
Yahya O. Raji  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Ethel Tyus  
Sheryl Vassell  
Deborah Young  
Pedro Zapata  
Vilma Zuniga

**Elected Officials Present**

District Leader Darlene Mealy, 55<sup>th</sup> A.D.

**Elected Officials Reps**

Raul Rothblatt, Senator Hamilton  
Tavia Mapp-Deterich, Assemblywoman Richardson  
Bella Pori, Assemblyman Mosley  
Reginald Belon, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke  
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Cumbo  
Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel

**CB 8 Staff Present**

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 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the general board meeting and asked for a roll call.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – Mr. Witherwax made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting 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 thanked Pastor Cecil Henry for allowing Community Board No. 8 to meet at Calvary Community Church on such short notice. She invited Pastor Henry up to say a few words.

**Calvary Community Church** - Pastor Cecil Henry

Pastor Henry welcomed everyone to Calvary and thanked Community Board 8 for assisting the community with projects, issues and complaints over the years. He stated that he has been a Pastor for more than 30 years and has personally bared witness to the many changes that the community has undergone. Calvary has a global vision in affecting more positive changes in the community starting with providing affordable housing to seniors. The church has been working very diligently with Self Help to open a new housing facility for seniors at 333 Lenox Road, Brooklyn. The building will include activities and resources for the benefit of our seniors. Pastor Henry expressed his deepest thanks to all the mothers in the community that were present and wished them a Happy Mother's Day.

Ms. Granville thanked Pastor Henry for his welcome and invited Mr. Jonah Rogoff, City Planner from the Department of City Planning to make a presentation on the proposed citywide zoning text amendment that would apply to hotels in the M1 (manufacturing) district.

**Department of City Planning (DCP)** - Mr. Jonah Rogoff, City Planner

Mr. Rogoff explained that DCP's citywide zoning text amendment pertaining to hotels in a manufacturing district is aiming to relieve the land use pressure related to hotels in M1 districts. He stated that the city's economy is currently booming due to a high volume of tourism which has caused the continual development and influx of hotels throughout the city. In Brooklyn alone, hotel development has tripled within the last 10 years. Since the M1 zoning laws allows for commercial and industrial uses, developers and property owners of the M1 district are competing with other commercial users.

In an effort to relieve the land use pressure related to hotels in M1 districts, the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) is proposing a zoning text amendment to establish a new Special Permit under the jurisdiction of the City Planning Commission (CPC) for new hotels, motels, tourist cabins and boatels in light manufacturing (M1) districts citywide. A Special Permit is a discretionary action by the CPC, subject to the public review process (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure or ULURP).

By establishing a new CPC special permit, DCP proposes a case-by-case, site-specific review process to ensure that hotel development occurs only on appropriate sites, based on reasonable considerations regarding the achievement of a balanced mix of uses and jobs in the area and other opportunities for the future siting of a permitted use on the site.

Mr. Rogoff announced that he will be presenting at the joint meeting of the Housing and Land Use Committees which will take place on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) which is located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6PM.

He stated that the proposal will be up for review by the Borough President and the City Council. The issues related to job use and job growth are very complicated. Restricting hotel usage in these areas is an important step in assisting the community with housing and job growth.

Ms. Granville opened the floor for questions and comments from community board members and members of the public.

Mr. Puca stated that the city is spending an exorbitant amount of money to house people in hotels, so he wanted to know the purpose for allowing the exemption, especially when it is likely that developers will use it to their benefit by opening the hotels for homeless individuals. He stated that this exemption goes against the city's desire to end the practice of housing the homeless in hotels. Mr. Rogoff suggested that Mr. Puca's questions and comments be deferred to the Department of Homeless Services who could answer his question.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if this zoning change will enshrine the usage of hotels for the homeless. Mr. Rogoff responded that currently developers are able to build these hotels as of right but the goal of this zoning text is to make the majority of M1 hotel development a bit more difficult by requiring a special permit to do so.

Ms. Davis stated her opposition to the development of hotels in the M1 district because they promote the practice of sheltering the homeless which does not solve the crisis of homelessness currently plaguing New York City. She is proposing that the Community Board find a way to oppose or prevent further hotel development from taking place altogether.

Mr. Sachs stated that right now in the M1 district, they can build hotels as of right. He stated that it is his understanding that City Planning is proposing a review process and added oversight to hotel development. Mr. Rogoff responded that he was correct.

Mr. Witherwax asked if anything about this text amendment would broaden the space where a hotel could be built. Mr. Rogoff responded that it would not and stated that the zoning change amendment is actually adding a layer of permission for regular hotels.

Mr. Witherwax also asked what the Department of City Planning considers as a transient hotel. Mr. Rogoff clarified that the word "transient" is a way of distinguishing between commercial use where guests stay for 30 days or less and permanent use. Transient simply refers to short stay hotels or hotels intended for commercial use only.

In reference to the review process, Mr. Witherwax asked if this will be purely architectural or will there be a "use component" as part of the process. He inquired as to whether the community would be able to ask developers what their intended population would be. Mr. Rogoff responded that the community would be able to because the Special Permit itself is tied to congestion, neighborhood character, conflict of adjacent uses etc. There is ample opportunity to add more safeguards in order to make the hotels more compatible with the community.

Ms. Oton stated that the word transient has a loose meaning and gives the incentive for things such as SRO's (Single Room Occupancy), Air BnB's and other non-traditional housing, to take advantage of the opportunity of filing for hotel status. She suggests that DCP compose a list stating the specific uses of M1 hotels in the zoning text because outside of that language, anything can be interpreted.

A resident asked why MX zones (residential and manufacturing) nearby are exempt when they could potentially be impacted. Mr. Rogoff responded that DCP only considers how uses are compatible with each other.

Mr. Atkins stated that DCP is giving a nebulous description of the uses of these districts and that the community does not have the right to tell the city what they want. He predicts that the only means of controlling the outcome is through taking action on the city.

Mr. Veconi referred to Page 12 of the presentation where it shows that there is a portion of Atlantic Avenue between Nostrand Avenue and Kingston Avenue that is marked "as of right" but the rest of the M1 zone along Atlantic Avenue is marked for special permit. He asked why that section is marked "as of right". Mr. Rogoff responded that the section of Atlantic Avenue that he is referring to is actually zoned as C8, which does not allow housing. Historically, the area has auto repair shops.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Rogoff for his presentation and opened the floor for public comments, elected official representative reports, and announcements.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mr. Morris Denmark** from the Brooklyn Public Library's Brower Park Branch announced that on Saturday, June 9, 2018 they will be having their Books and Beats Summer Reading Kickoff event to mark the beginning of the Summer Reading Program. It will feature face painting, arts and crafts, live music, scavenger hunts, an art show, silent auction and special performances. The event will be held at select branches of the Brooklyn Public Library including the Brower Park Branch which is located at 725 St. Marks Avenue from 10AM to 5PM.

The kickoff will also include story time at Brower Park in the Monarch Butterfly Garden next to the skate park. Story Time will take place between 10:30AM and 11AM. Brower Park is located on St. Marks Avenue between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. Ms. Robyn Berland of Friends of Brower Park will be distributing gardening kits to attendees. For additional information about this event, please contact the Brower Park Branch Library at 718-773-7208.

**Ms. Tavia Mapp-Deterich** from Assemblywoman Diana Richardson's office wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and announced that they will be hosting their Vital Brooklyn event on Thursday, May 17, 2018. Vital Brooklyn is a billion dollar program that was designed to aid central Brooklyn in the areas of open space and recreation, healthy food, comprehensive education and youth development, economic development, job creation, community-based violence prevention, community-based healthcare, and affordable housing and resiliency. The event will be held at Public School 91 located at 532 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn from 6PM to 8:30PM.

Ms. Mapp-Deterich also announced that Assemblywoman Richardson will be having her next Civic Minded meeting on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Middle School 61 located at 400 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn from 2PM to 4PM. For more information, contact the office at 718-771-3105.

**Ms. Sarah Lazur** from Crown Heights Tenant Union (CHTU) stated that they are a union of Tenant Associations in Crown Heights who fight for the rights of the residents that reside in the more than 40 buildings that they advocate for. They advocate for affordable housing and stand against the challenges and injustices that residents in Crown Heights have been faced with since gentrification has begun.

Ms. Lazur announced that on Thursday, May 17, 2018 CHTU will be having their general meeting at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation which is located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 7PM. They will be discussing the different issues that people have in their home. They will also be doing a segment on bed bugs. An exterminator will be present to share his expertise on pest control. All tenants are welcomed to attend. If you have additional inquiries, please contact 347-829-4202 or log on to [www.crownheightstenantunion.org](http://www.crownheightstenantunion.org).

**Ms. Monica Sibri** from Ignite announced that they will be hosting a Brooklyn Community Board Boot Camp on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Industrious Brooklyn which is located at 594 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY from 10AM to 2PM. The purpose of the event is to assist women with taking their first step toward political leadership by securing a seat at their local community board or commission. There are 18 community boards or local representative bodies in Brooklyn and each one consists of up to 50 non-salaried members appointed by the Borough President, half of whom are recommended by their district's City Council members. Applicants must reside, work, or have some other significant interest in the community. This event will help women establish new relationships to build a peer network of support and polish their professional resumes. It is open to all women ages 14 to 28 years old. A reservation is required in order to attend. Interested parties can RSVP to [www.IGNITENational.org/Bootcamps](http://www.IGNITENational.org/Bootcamps).

**Ms. Kim Robinson** from Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel's office wished all of the mothers a Happy Mother's Day and announced that the Councilwoman will be having her Advisory Board Meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 400 Rockaway Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY from 10AM to 12PM. Announcements and Mother's Day awards will be given by the Councilwoman along with Assemblywoman Latrice Walker. There will also be a prom dress giveaway organized by Ladies of Elegance Foundation, Inc. For additional information about the dress giveaway, please contact Ms. Duchene at 718-498-3174 or Ms. Joseph at 718-953-3097.

Ms. Robinson also announced that the office is currently offering free immigration services to community residents. The office is located at 400 Rockaway Avenue on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. To schedule an appointment or if you have additional questions, please contact the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097.

**Ms. Bella Pori** from Assemblyman Walter Mosley's office stated that the Assemblyman has introduced a new bill into the Assembly (Bill #A10077) which "Relates to discrimination based upon the income of persons; defined source of income; establishes unlawful discriminatory practices based on source of income". It aims to prevent housing discrimination from affecting recipients of Section 8 and other governmental assistance programs.

Mr. Pori also invited everyone to come out to their Mother's Day Luncheon which would be held on Friday, May 11, 2018 at their office located at 55 Hanson Place on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Brooklyn, NY at 12PM. All mothers are welcomed. For more information, call the Assemblyman's office at 718-596-0100.

**Mr. Reginald Belon** from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office announced that the Congresswoman has introduced new legislation called "Hardest Hit Housing Act of 2018" or Bill #H.R.5200. This bill will supply the Public Housing Capital Fund Grant Program with \$4 billion dollars in funds per year over five years for public housing authorities that own or manage more than 10,000 units, provides \$5 million dollars per year for five years for foreclosure prevention and mitigation to 15 metropolitan areas with the greatest need as of January 1, 2018, and authorize funding of 100,000 incremental housing authorities that administer over 10,000 vouchers at a rate of 20,000 over five years.

He also announced that the Congresswoman will be hosting the 2018 Congressional Art Competition Awards Showcase. Participants were supposed to submit their artistic pieces by Saturday, May 5, 2018. The showcase event will be held on Friday, May 11, 2018 at Weeksville Heritage Center located 168 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

If you have any additional questions, you can email him at [reginald.belon@mail.house.gov](mailto:reginald.belon@mail.house.gov) or call Congresswoman Clarke's office at or call 718-287-1142.

**Ms. Arna Lipkind** from Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo's office announced that the Councilwoman has introduced a number of bills designed to assist pregnant and post-pregnancy moms. Some of these bills address the need for lactation spaces and childcare alternatives in the community. She also introduced anti-sexual harassment legislation.

Ms. Lipkind also announced that the Councilwoman held a press conference to address the "Clear Curbs Pilot Program" which aims to ban curbside parking and loading during peak hours between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 4PM and 7PM along Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. The goal of the program is to free-up traffic lanes during rush hour. More specifically they are targeting delivery trucks that idle and double park, which adds to congestion.

Lastly she announced that on Thursday, May 17, 2018 there will be a tax lien sale. Each year, the NYC Department of Finance (DOF) sells tax liens due to unpaid water and sewer charges, property taxes, emergency repairs or municipal charges. She encouraged those who are on the tax lien sale list for 2018 to go to either 210 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn or 250 Livingston Street, Brooklyn between 9AM and 2PM to speak to a DOF, DEP or HPD representative about their tax, water, or emergency repair liens. They will also discuss some options for preventing the sale of your lien and how you can avoid future lien sales. For additional information, please contact Councilwoman Cumbo's office at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and asked for a report from the following committees:

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee will not meet for the month of May because of the Training Fair that it will take place on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Committee members are encouraged to volunteer on one of the days to have their attendance recorded for the month. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**ENVIRONMENT, SANITATION, & TRANSPORTATION** – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair

The Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the Chair Mr. Robert Witherwax and Vice-Chair, Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Desmond Atkins, Isaac Blasenstein, Ainslee Dublin-Scott, Holly Fuchs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Frances Langley, Robert LaPoint, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Gregg Todd, Deborah Young, Gail Middleton, Cherie Washington and Pearl Roberts. They discussed committee rules pertaining to voting privileges and membership. The committee also decided to officially change their name from the Livable Streets Committee to the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee or the EST Committee for short. They will be discussing all community concerns related to environmental health/safety, sanitation and transportation.

The committee also discussed some of the projects they intend to tackle in the upcoming months. These projects will address issues concerning enforcement, pedestrian crossing, road or street repair, truck traffic signage and trash cans. The committee will also be discussing the elevator at Eastern Parkway in which Ms. Fuchs gave an update. She stated that the project was scheduled to begin during the end of 2017. It is now scheduled for the end of 2018 quarter. Part of the delay had to do with the failure of the contract being handed out. The project is currently scheduled to begin this May or June.

The committee decided to invite the Department of Transportation (DOT) to an upcoming meeting of the EST committee to discuss community concerns about the B45 bus and other issues. They hope that DOT can come out to the June 2018 meeting.

Lastly, the committee discussed the Clear Curb Initiative which aims to resolve the congestion issues along Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. Mr. Witherwax shared that at the CB8 Executive Meeting a resolution was made to send a letter requesting DOT rescind the Clear Curb Initiative. The plan is having an adverse impact on businesses. As of this meeting they have not received a response.

The next EST Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM.

#### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Mr. Mensah reminded everyone about their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Fair which will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at BNIA from 11AM to 3PM. At the Health Fair there will be experts on an array of health related topics such as mental health, elder care, nutrition, wills and trusts, parks, etc. Mr. Mensah also stated that May is mental health month and encouraged people to check out Thrive NYC which is a program that is designed to assist the mentally ill and the people who take care of them. For additional information about Thrive NYC please log onto <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be Tuesday, June 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

#### **HOUSING (ADVOCACY)** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn but did not submit a report. The Housing Committee will be meeting jointly with the Land Use Committee for their next meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

#### **LAND USE** – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6:30PM. Present were: Phu Duong, Nizjoni Granville, Danae Oratowski, Katherine Perko, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Mark Thurton, Greg Todd, Robert Puca, Muriel T., L. Crawford, Duane Robb, Mane Ronny, E. Ronny, Sowd, Eric Liftin, John Haskell, Cathryn Core, and Jeff Phillips.

The committee heard a presentation on the following applications before the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC):

#### **1. Discussion of LPC Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 552 Carlton Avenue, Prospect Heights Historic District**

The proposed development is a 19.5ft (full width) x 9ft horizontal extension on garden and parlor level and a 19.5ft (full width) x 26.5ft vertical extension, 11ft high, with 15ft setback from the front of the house.

The committee supported the application contingent upon the owner cladding the rear yard extension in brick on three sides, adding lintels above the windows to match the existing rear façade window openings, and adding a cornice to the rear yard extension, and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi stated that if a person was standing on Bergen Street, the rooftop addition would be visible to them. He added that the pitched roof does not read as a mansard roof or anything that belongs on top of a row-house.

The developer provided new designs to the board which were in accordance with what was suggested by the Land Use Committee at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr. Veconi asked if the owners agreed to what the committee recommended. The developer responded that they did. Mr. Veconi made a motion that the board support the rear yard addition with the conditions, but not the rooftop addition. The motion was seconded by Ms. Benn-James.

Mr. Witherwax amended Mr. Veconi's motion and proposed a separate vote on the rooftop and rear yard additions. Mr. Veconi accepted the amendment. Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the extension of the rear yard. It was seconded by Ms. Benn-James and carried to a final vote of 27 in favor, 1 abstention and none opposed.

Mr. Witherwax made the second motion to deny support of the rooftop addition. It was seconded by Ms. Benn-James and failed with a final vote of 2 in favor, 20 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

Ms. Oton made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sachs and carried to a final vote of 17 in favor, 2 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

## **2. Discussion of LPC Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 851 Park Place (Crown Heights North Historic District)**

The proposed project includes:

- A rooftop penthouse (completely invisible from Park Place and side yard)
- An exterior four-story fire escape

Neither the Park Place Block Association nor the Crown Heights North Association supported the project that would add an additional floor to the building and a fire escape that is usually not commonplace on private houses and instead reserved for larger apartment buildings. The committee had the same reservations and concerns.

As such, the Committee voted to withhold support for the application based upon its plan to add a four story fire escape on the side of the building that would be visible from Park Place. It hopes that the full Board supports its opinion that the application as presented is detrimental to the historic nature of Northern Crown Heights and will deny support.

Ms. Catherine Cork, the developer clarified that the penthouse will not be visible from the Park Place side of the building however, the side stairs will. She inquired as to whether the Board could split the vote on the two items (the rooftop addition and then the fire escape).

Mr. Sachs asked if the addition of the fire escape is needed. Ms. Cork responded that the fire escape is required by law.

Mr. Veconi stated, in reference to the buildings code, that he doesn't think this is a proper fire escape. He added that the fire escape is needed because the interior staircase leading to the penthouse is a narrow spiral staircase that does not allow for quick exit. If we agree to this because the applicant does not want to add a proper staircase, this would require us to agree to everything this applicant is proposing and to similar applications in the future. It sets a dangerous precedent for the community.



Mr. Stewart asked how many floors the property currently has. Ms. Cork responded that it has 3 floors.

Mr. Veconi asked if they can build a proper staircase interiorly to avoid the fire escape. Ms. Cork responded that the mill work on the interior would be severely affected by a proper staircase on the interior.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Banks and carried to a final vote of 19 in favor, 1 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

The Land Use Committee will be meeting jointly with the Housing Committee on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**PARKS** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 1, 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-Woods, Julia Boyd, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Carolyn Johnson, Regina Kinsey, and Thomas Montford.

The committee discussed updates on St. Johns Recreation Center and St. Johns Park. Ms. Andrews reported that the center will be closed from the end of May until October for construction of the HVAC system. The comfort station at St. Johns Park is slated to be completed by June. Information regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony will be given at a later date. If there is one, community members will be updated accordingly. If there are any additional questions, please contact the Community Board 8 office at 718-467-5574.

Mr. Todd announced that a developer is attempting to cut down the Weeksville Willow Tree in Imani Garden which is located at 89 Schenectady Avenue, Brooklyn. The tree has stood there for more than 70 years and the developer has all of the proper permits and paperwork in order to cut it down. In an attempt to stop this, the Imani Garden team is rallying supporters to come to court on Thursday, May 17, 2018 in the Supreme Court building located at 360 Adams Street, Room 297 at 9:30AM.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM at a new location. They will meet at Weeksville Gardens Community Center located at 1640 Pacific Street, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair; Mr. Mark Thurton, Vice-Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, April 23, 2018 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 6 PM at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. All are invited to attend.

**SENIORS** – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, present were: Essie Spivey, Faye Jones, Leola Mills, Yvonne Bailey, Doreen Turner, Perlie Mikelle, Annabelle Boyd, Wallace Alexander, Frances Langley, Georgia McCrea, William Rodgers, Regina Kinsey, Julia Boyd, Vilma Zuniga, Edison Stewart, and Xeerxeema Jordan.

The committee discussed the following:

- Pool trusts and how they operate
- Dance party coming up on June 20, 2018 at Brooklyn Arts and Music (BAM)
- Canning and pickling for the June meeting
- Free air conditioners for low income households and the disabled from the Jewish Community Council
- Policing and the sectors they cover
- Drug and opioid abuse, new drug administered to save lives
- Upcoming primaries and the candidates
- Importance of the U.S Census
- The annual Brooklyn Senior Games
- The closing of St. John's Recreational Center from June to November for renovations
- Summer kickoff barbecue on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at Senator Hamilton's office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

The next Seniors Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**SLA AND SIDEWALK CAFÉ REVIEW COMMITTEE** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6:30PM. In addition to the Chair, Mr. James Ellis and Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Witherwax, present were:

**The committee discussed the following applications:**

**1. Renewals:**

- Domo Taco, 733 Franklin Avenue (Park/Sterling) – Full (rear yard)
- BK Winery, 747 Franklin Avenue (corner Sterling) – Full
- Happiness Lounge, 1458 St. John's Place (Utica/Rochester) – Full

The committee voted 16 in favor to support all three renewal applications and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried to a final vote of 27 in favor, none opposed with 2 abstentions.

**2. Renewal application for 333 Lounge, 333 Flatbush Avenue (Park/Prospect) – Full**

The committee voted 14 in favor, 1 abstention, with 1 recusal to deny the renewal application on the following grounds:

- The applicant did not appear for their hearing before the committee despite being informed that numerous complaints had been received;
- The applicant did not adhere to the stipulations imposed on the establishment in January 2016 (2016 stipulations as per the Action Items: the basement area be removed from application, that the street facing windows must be closed by 10 PM, that the business close by 3 AM on Saturdays, and that there will be no bottle service); and
- A personal request made by Chair of the SLAC committee, who also serves as the Executive Director of the North Flatbush BID, with internal knowledge of the many complaints (please note that this is the 1 recusal) received about the establishment.

The committee is aware that despite the request for the SLA to deny the approval of the renewal application, there is a possibility that the license will still be renewed. As such, along with the denial, the committee voted to support sending a letter to the SLA stating the following:

- In the event that the license is renewed despite CB 8's objection, the terms approved in January 2016 should apply to the application.
- The Board does not agree to the changes in the Method of Operations submitted on the current application as we do not support them. The current application includes the addition of a DJ and extended hours.

The Committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to deny support for the renewal application and also to send the letter to the NYS Liquor Authority with the two conditions.

Mr. Mensah asked if a letter indicating our denial of support of their renewal would still be sent to the State Liquor Authority. Mr. Ellis responded that it will be sent but it won't change the fact that they may still approve the application.

Mr. Stewart asked if there were any complaints made to the 78<sup>th</sup> precinct about this establishment. Mr. Ellis reported that there were a few.

Mr. Caesar, the applicant/owner of 333 Lounge stated that there was miscommunication between himself and his attorney in reference to the date which caused his non-attendance at the committee meeting. In response to community concerns he stated that the nature of his business has a social atmosphere. People come there to socialize. Mr. Caesar acknowledged that there were noise complaints made about his business and stated that one of the neighbors who made those complaints was making false accusations because she was attempting to get out of her lease agreement with her landlord. He also stated that his lounge is not the only business on that strip that plays music. In response to noise complaints that were made by the landlord and tenant, he stated that he has hired a soundproofing engineer and has since resolved the noise issue.

Mr. Witherwax thanked Mr. Caesar for coming and stated that the committee has had a good track record with his lounge thus far. He included that he is open to overturning the committees' recommendation to reflect their support.

Mr. Thurton and Ms. Banks inquired about the soundproofing and when it was done. Mr. Caesar stated that it was done approximately two months ago and provided a copy of the soundproofing report to the Board.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Veconi made a motion to approve the renewal application on the grounds that the change in method of operations to add a DJ, karaoke and extended hours be denied.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Witherwax and carried to a final vote of 25 in favor, 3 abstentions, 1 recusal and none opposed.

### **3. Sidewalk Café renewal application for Gueros, 605 Prospect Place (corner of Franklin Avenue) – 8 tables, 14 chairs maximum**

The committee voted 16 in favor to support the sidewalk café renewal for Gueros and hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs and carried to a final vote of 27 in favor, none opposed with 1 abstention.

**4. Discussion of Alteration Application for addition of a sidewalk café for Café Forte, 619 St. John's Place – Full License (The applicant must apply with the Dept. of Consumer Affairs for the permitted space)**

The application initially requested the following:

- i. 34.6 feet x 9.5 feet dimension
- ii. 20 tables with 40 chairs
- iii. Hours of operation: 10 AM to 11 PM Sunday, 9 AM to 11 PM Monday- Thursday, 9 AM to midnight Friday, and 10 AM to midnight Saturday

The committee imposed the following conditions and stipulations on the application:

- a. Maximum number of seats capped at 20
- b. Close by 10 PM daily
- c. no amplified sound outdoors

The applicant agreed to the conditions and the committee voted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions to support the alteration application. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried to a final vote of 26 in favor, 3 abstentions and none opposed.

**5. New Application for Bar 704, located at 704-706 Nostrand Avenue – Full (St. Marks/Prospect)**

Details of the application are as follows:

- i. Restaurant with hours of operation of 11 AM to 1 AM Sunday, 1 PM to 2 AM Monday thru Thursday, 1 PM to 3 AM Friday, and 11 AM to 3 AM Saturday
- ii. 12 tables with 46 seats; 1 circular bar with 20 seats
- iii. Rear yard space that can accommodate 11 tables with 28 seats that will operate until 10 PM daily
- iv. 500 foot exception community benefit: will hire locally, owner is making a re-investment in the community he grew up in, revitalize an underserved section of Nostrand Avenue (many empty buildings and storefront spaces)
- v. No dancing, live music, or DJ, and space will retain security

The committee voted 15 in favor, with 1 opposed to support the application and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon made a motion to accept the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried to a final vote of 26 in favor, 2 opposed with no abstentions.

The next SLAC Committee meeting will be held on Monday June 4, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and encouraged everyone to come out to their monthly committee meetings. She acknowledged former Councilwoman Darlene Mealy and invited her to say a few words to the community.

**Darlene Mealy, District Leader** – 55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

District Leader Mealy thanked everyone and the Community Board for their help and support throughout her 12 years as the Council Representative for the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District. She was pleased to announce that she is retiring after 32 years, but she will continue to fight for her community. Currently her job is to appoint judges. She also stated that for the entire month of August she will be having her concert series. The theme this year will be an old school tribute to Motown. Additional details will be given at a later date.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Darlene Mealy for the information and thanked everyone for attending. She adjourned the meeting at 9:30PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7 PM at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

**Guests**

Morris Denmark  
Jacqueline Dowd  
Kirk McLeod  
Shirley Mondesir  
Lynn Cave  
Cathryn Core  
Jennifer Henry  
Maria Marin  
Atiba Stevenson  
Sarah Lazar  
Jonah Rogoff  
Monica Sibri  
Mercedes Baire  
Leianna Lewis  
Beverly Craigwell  
Eduard Elyasno  
Leah Brown  
Charles Hickman  
Tribar Davidson  
Dr. Erogers Hykes  
Betty Davis  
Fabrice Armand  
Kim Morales  
Ken Marable  
Hannah Emple  
Daniel Ramirez  
Michelle Jones