

**Community Board 8
Chelsea Piers Field House
601 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY, 11238**

January 11, 2024

Members Present

Akua Aidoo
Sharon Alexis-Pierre
Lisa Atkinson
Robert Callahan
Benny Faygen
Andrea Ferris
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Xeexema Jordan
Frances Langley
Robert Lapointe
Dr. Sarah Lazur
Lisa Maldonado
Kwasi Mensah
Mimi Mitchell
Gail Muhammad
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Taraya Pettway
Robert Puca
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Anika Roach
Conor Ross
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Nicole Tetreault
Mark Thurton
Briana Uwa
Gib Veconi
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Jacques Brunvil
Edward Delman
Dian Duke
Nizjoni Granville
David Mantell
Yahya Raji
Bria Thomas
Ethel Tyus
Kimberly Watson

Elected Officials Present

Assemblymember Robert Carroll, 42nd Assembly District
Assemblymember Stefani Zinnerman, 56th Assembly Dist.
Councilmember Crystal Hudson, 35th Council District
Councilmember Chi Osse, 36th Council District

Elected Official Representatives/Agency Liaisons

Deputy Inspector Omar Birchwood, Commanding Officer
77th Pct
Detective Felicia Richards, NYPD Commissioner's
Liaison's Office
Karen Chambers, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Janay Pierre, Councilmember Hudson's Office
Tevin Williams, Congressman Goldman's Office
Connie Little, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Hercules Reid, Mayor's Office, CAU
Tendai Watkins, Assemblymember Zinnerman's Office
Camille Barbin, Senator Myrie's Office
Arna Lipkind, IDCC Connect

CB8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Chairperson Irsa Weatherspoon called the regular meeting of Community Board 8 to order at 6:36 PM, wished the board members and members of the public a Happy New Year.

To begin, Chairperson Weatherspoon introduced the community to Deputy Inspector Omar Birchwood, Commanding Officer of the 77th Precinct and invited him to give remarks.

NYPD 77th Precinct – Deputy Inspector Omar Birchwood, Commanding Officer

After wishing the community a happy new year, he gave a review of the previous year. 2023 saw 12 fewer shootings in the district than the previous year. Overall, the district experienced a slight increase in crime driven by domestic violence; Inspector Birchwood spoke with the Brooklyn Borough Commander to create a plan to address this increase. Stolen cars, particularly Hyundais & Kias, were also a considerable issue, which the Inspector has addressed in many public meetings. Important to engage the youth on this issue because stealing cars is difficult to anticipate or catch in progress. Commercial burglaries on Vanderbilt, Washington & Classon Avenues were an area of note, and Crime Prevention Officer Vidal works closely with the business community to address the issues within a zone of concern. While crime is up slightly, the Inspector is not overly concerned.

A community member asked if they had noticed peak times for car theft. Most often, they occur in the afternoon, evening and overnight.

A community member expressed concern that she has observed that Stop & Frisk has returned, as young male members of her family have experienced it when they came to visit her. The Inspector replied that stop & frisk was never entirely eliminated, and the Office of Neighborhood Safety is trained in stop & frisk; all officers are required to log the encounter for the purpose of auditing stops later.

The Inspector's colleague Detective Felicia Richards from the Commissioner's Office was asked to address the board. She gave brief remarks, noting that while she is often detailed to citywide issues, in particular, she covers Brooklyn North and looked forward to assisting the community however she could.

Next, Chairperson Weatherspoon invited Assemblymember Robert Carroll of the 42nd Assembly District to address the board with an update of current events.

42nd Assembly District – Assemblymember Robert Carroll

At the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library on Tuesday January 16th he will hold office hours in the afternoon. In the Governor's State of the State address, she highlighted new childhood literacy initiatives and a climate change flood disclosure bill. A community member asked the Assemblymember's opinion on the reduction of Alternate Side Parking; he is in support of 2 day alternate side parking, which is in use elsewhere in Brooklyn and makes sense here as well. A different community member asks if he will consider congestion pricing exemptions for caregivers. According to the Assemblymember, the Transportation Mobility Review Unit of the MTA is reviewing an exemption for healthcare workers driving to Manhattan, but he is unaware of exemptions for people passing through Manhattan.

Next, Chairperson Weatherspoon welcomed Assemblymember Stefani Zimmerman.

56th Assembly District – Assemblymember Stefani Zimmerman

Assemblymember Zimmerman brought greetings and gave her response to the Governor's State of the State address. She was interested in the Governor's Housing plan. The Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus met to discuss their own housing plan. The Assemblymember encourages people to reach out to give their input on housing. She was particularly excited about the new Office of Civic Engagement helmed by Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado. Rep Zimmerman is going to partner with Lt. Governor Delgado to have several meetings focused on civic engagement, including one just for youth aged 12-25. On the issue of caregiving: the Assemblymember is having her staff & counsel focus on a suite of issues around caregiving and caregivers. Cultural Museum of African Art just opened, and the Rep. issues an open call for artists and aspiring artists to reach out to join. The member also brought attention to the ongoing Central Brooklyn Food Consortium.

With respect to road safety, there is a new law for delivery workers who are associated with a specific restaurant to wear a vest with identifying numbers to address concerns with regards to road safety. An amendment to the law pertaining to independent contractors working for companies like Doordash is still in the works.

She also announced a collaboration with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams called Kings Dream Disability Justice Charting the Way Forward on Saturday, February 24th at Medgar Evers College at 11AM. Also sponsoring the annual legislative bus to Albany on Saturday, February 17th, buses depart at 5:30AM and return at 6:00 PM. Reserve your seat by calling 718-399-7630.

In a period of open questions, Dr. Lazur states that Right to Counsel is falling apart, there are not enough lawyers to represent tenants. She asks the Assemblymembers present to support statewide Right to Counsel. In response, Assemblymember stated that she is in support of a freeze on foreign born investment in real estate and expanding night court to address the housing backlog.

On Redistricting – IRC lost a critical advocate for Brooklyn recently. The Assemblymember is insistent that Brooklyn must be represented and has submitted names. Lastly, she mentions that Caucus Weekend is 16th-18th; there will be a free bus for Saturday.

35th Council District – Councilmember Crystal Hudson

Councilmember Hudson next brought greetings. She reminded the group that every Wednesday her office has Housing Help, on Thursday, legal assistance from CUNY – interested persons should call (718) 260-9191 to make an appointment. Tax prep services from Urban Upbound will begin in February. There will be income requirements (details to come).

Participatory Budgeting is soon to be underway, and the public should reach out to be a Budget Delegate. The Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP) is going through Environmental Assessment, and the Councilmember's staff will be giving a brief presentation on the community plan that was released by WXY; call the office to get a copy of the plan.

In Q&A, Mr. Mensah is concerned about the loss of parking spaces due to Citibike. CM Hudson notes that Citibike has a contract with the city that allows them to expand; Crown Heights is experiencing a period of growth.

Mr. Puca – City Planning came to present on City of Yes, mentioned that City of Yes will be voted on prior to AAMUP; he wanted to know how the two plans will work together. CM Hudson states that she is trying to work through both processes and the city wants to start the ULURP process for COY in May, but it will be pushed back to August if it does not move quickly to give Community Boards adequate time to consider the plan. CM Hudson says that COY is “complex by design.” While the Councilmember agrees with some of the economic development proposals, she disagrees with more of the restrictions around Zoning.

36th Council District – Councilmember Chi Osse

Next, Councilmember Osse of the 36th District appeared before the meeting. He reminds the public that Housing Assistance is available in his office on Tuesdays, and a Free Legal Advice with an attorney takes place on every other Thursday (including the 11th and 25th of January). On the 10th and 24th the office hosts an Immigration attorney. His offices are at Restoration Plaza. Constituent Services run all week, Monday – Friday. His office is in the midst of an Agencies in your District series; DOB, DOF are coming on January the 25th. Con Edison will follow. Call (718) 919-0740 for details. Wellness Wednesdays, an opportunity for food and other resources for free, takes place every week at his office.

In the Council, CM Osse introduced a bill to regulate broker fees. The mayor has also delayed the implementation of the Council’s signature legislation to expand access to CityFHEPS Vouchers. The City Council is planning to fight back, including a veto override.

Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez – Karen Chambers

Karen Chambers gave brief remarks, notifying the public of an internship for high school students: call 718-250-4877 with details.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked elected officials and their representatives and asked Secretary Callahan to call the roll. With 32 members present, the board reaches a quorum and begins its business for the evening.

Mr. Witherwax makes a motion to accept the minutes from the December Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Staton. No members record any changes. The minutes are accepted by acclamation.

ACTION ITEMS

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC) – Irsa Weatherspoon, Chair; Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, January 8, 2024 at Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 810 St. Marks Avenue. In absence of the Chair, Mr. Witherwax conducted the meeting. Present were: Akua Aidoo, Gail Muhammad, Tamika Gibbs, Xeerxeema

Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Robert Puca, Nicole Tetreault, Mark Thurton and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the new liquor license application for Simo Pizza located at 615 Dean Street. The application is for a beer/wine/cider license inclusive of recorded music and no outdoor space. The hours of operation are 11AM to 11PM daily.

The committee voted 10 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application as presented, and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community, hearing none, Ms. Gibbs made a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Dr. Lazur. The motion passed with 29 in favor, one opposed, no abstentions, and one recusal.

The SLA committee meets on the 1st Monday of Every Month at the Crown Heights Rehabilitation Center.

Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee -Robert Callahan, Community Board Secretary

The Cannabis Committee met on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 810 St. Marks Avenue. Present were: Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson; Michelle George, District Manager; Julia Neale, Community Coordinator; Robert LaPointe, Mark Thurton, Tamika Gibbs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Roger Myers, Mary Woods, TaRaya Pettway, Peter Anekwe, Lisa Maldonado, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and a cadre of applicants and representatives. The committee discussed the following cannabis retail dispensary applications:

1. AmerCana, 682 Franklin Avenue (between St. Marks Ave and Prospect Pl)

Mr. Dwayne Powell presented his plans for an adult use cannabis retail dispensary. He stated that he has been a resident of North Crown Heights for the last 7 years, and is a lifelong Brooklynite having grown up in Flatbush. His journey to the world of cannabis started as a resident of Flatbush watching his neighbors smoke cannabis products, and because of the war on drugs, developed a severe skepticism and disdain for cannabis products and all other drugs. However, his understanding of cannabinoid products changed when he witnessed several family members with debilitating conditions being successfully treated with cannabinoid products rather than opioids and pharmaceutical drugs. Citing several family members' experience of cannabis use to ameliorate such things as chronic pain conditions and anxiety issues, then successfully complete necessary physical therapy or learn to manage mental health issues, his views of cannabis changed.

Mr. Powell currently operates AmerCana, a CBD wellness space at 682 Franklin Avenue that is listed with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and also a supporting member of the Franklin Avenue Merchants Association. The business currently operates from 11 AM to 7PM daily and sells CBD tinctures, topicals, and gummies for sleep assistance. Should he receive a license from the NYS Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), the focus of the dispensary will remain on the

wellness component, but the addition of THC containing products will help increase awareness of cannabis use and revenue. Responding to a question of why he felt the need to open a cannabis dispensary, he stated that CBD is an iteration of cannabis but lacks the true psychedelic effect of THC containing products. For customers seeking more of a “full body experience,” he would offer THC containing products. Currently, CBD containing products do not lend to the feeling of “being high,” and non THC containing products will remain the focus of the dispensary.

All customer care technicians will receive the necessary training from OCM to be able to assist customers in finding the best product for their needs. A key component to the business would be education and which products can be used for certain ailments. CBD, CBG, and THC all treat different things and have different effects, and as such, education is crucial to ensure customers receive the correct product for their specific needs. He has retained his friend, a retired MTA NYPD police officer for security, and additional security measures include cameras and a door buzzer. He and others noted that retired officers typically are licensed to carry a firearm, and he surmised that his friend would be armed while on duty in the shop.

Responding to the questions of why Franklin Avenue and what will he do to ensure the community benefits from the establishment, Mr. Powell informed the committee that he lives around the corner from AmerCana on St. Marks Avenue near Classon Avenue and will continue to recycle the money he makes at his dispensary in the community by patronizing other businesses in the community. “The money he makes here, will stay here.” Finally, having grown up in Brooklyn, frequenting Franklin Avenue in his youth, to living there the last 7 years, he wants to help to change the perception of Franklin Avenue, and a business on the corridor is one way to do that.

The committee did not have a quorum, but the 7 members present voted unanimously to support the application in the hopes that the full Board supports the application based on the aforementioned information.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community. The following discussion commenced: Mr. Mensah asks if medicinal or recreational use is the primary focus of the business. The applicant states that he has no issue with recreational use. The current CBD business is focused on people with chronic pain, and has personally observed the medical benefits of THC. While he is more focused on medicinal aspects personally, he desires to offer both medicinal and recreational uses. A second applicant clarified that both educational and recreational services will be offered. Ms. Mitchell objected, stating that it is not the purview of the community board to differentiate. Dr. Lazur made a motion to support the application per the consensus of the Cannabis Committee, seconded by Ms. Mitchell.

The motion passed with 30 in favor and one opposed.

2. Corporate Gift Solutions, 1392 St. John’s Place (between Utica and Schenectady Aves)

David Birchhandle, Representative, presented on behalf of the applicant, Mrs. Abigail Meer. Mr. Birchhandle informed the committee that the applicant and her husband have experience in the cannabis industry, operating a dispensary in New Jersey. Since her husband is the official licensee of the NJ dispensary, this venture will be hers to help her build her business portfolio.

Mrs. Meer currently owns and operates a home business of the same name that provides gift solution ideas to businesses and corporations. Plans for the dispensary include 8 employees over multiple shifts and 2 additional security personnel, one on each shift for the dispensary that will operate from 10 AM to 7 PM daily. The vision is for the dispensary to be part of the fabric of the local community.

Ms. George asked the applicant and the representative if they have evidence of the measurement from Bible Faith Tabernacle, the church located at 1368 St. John's Place on the same block and same side of the street. Mr. Birchhandle informed her that his measurement indicated that the church is 208 feet away, measured center of door to center of door, which is within OCM guidelines. She and other committee members asked for measurement evidence to be submitted to the district office.

Responding to questions of "why St. John's Place" and clarity on what it means to be part of the fabric of the community, the applicant's representative stated that the site was immediately available at a time when not many landlords are necessarily interested in renting to cannabis licensees.

Security will be in the form of cameras, security glass, and security personnel. At this time, there is no plan for armed security. As for community benefits, the applicants stated that they would collaborate with local businesses, sponsoring art or education, toy runs, charity, etc. Currently, Mrs. Meer provides meals to mothers that recently gave birth via proceeds from her home business, which she will be able to expand if the dispensary is licensed.

The committee had several concerns including the rate of crime on the block, the church, and outreach to church leaders and the 77th precinct. The applicant stated that they hadn't reached out to the church or precinct yet, but would do so in the future to see how best they can work with the church to prevent any disruptions. Additionally, they stated that they believe a well-run business would be good for the corridor.

The committee did not have a quorum, but the members present supported the application with 6 in favor, 1 opposed and hopes the full Board will support the application on the merits presented above.

Mr. Meer was present and spoke on behalf of the application. Chairperson Weatherspoon asked Board staff to clarify if the requested evidence of distance from Bible Faith Tabernacle was submitted, which Ms. George confirmed. Ultimately, the location was deemed to be 206 feet from the nearest church. Community members asked if Mr. Meer spoke with the 77th Precinct or the Church; he had done neither at the time of the meeting. Ms. Muhammad asked why the applicant Mrs. Meer is not present? Mr. Meer replied that she is pregnant and imminently due.

A community member had "serious questions" for the board about the absence of quorum and the lack of communication with the Church. The board's responded reminded the members and community that the licensing process is based on a lottery system; a license might not even be issued to this applicant, and communication is not required. Mr. Puca made a motion, seconded by Mr. Staton, to support the application per the consensus of the Cannabis Committee.

The motion failed with nine in favor, 13 opposed and nine abstentions.

After further discussion to articulate a set of conditions that would speak to both the concerns of the board members and the limited scope available to Community Boards through which to review cannabis license applications, Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the application if the applicant reaches out to the church as evidenced by written communication to the Community Board office verifying the contact within 30 day, seconded by Ms. Muhammad.

The motion failed with 14 in favor, 14 opposed and three abstentions.

After additional discussion, which focused in considerable detail that the Community Board was limited to objections pertaining to hours of operation, business model/security, and proximity to schools and religious institutions, none of which were deficient in the application presented Mr. Callahan made a motion identical to Mr. Witherwax's prior motion, seconded by Mr. Ross.

The motion failed with 15 in favor, 14 opposed and two abstentions.

Chairperson Weatherspoon made a motion to table the item until the remaining business of the Board could be completed, which was accepted by unanimous acclamation.

After a hiatus, the board returned to this item. Ms. Young made a motion to withhold support because the board is unable to come to consensus, seconded by Ms. Atkinson. The motion was withdrawn by the maker after concerns that was not sufficient as a reason for withholding support. Next Mr. Puca made a motion seconded by Mr. Fagen to support the application given that there were no true areas of concern outside of notifying the church, which is currently not a CB8 requirement.

Mr. Meer states that he has been in the business for some time, which some members articulate is detrimental to the strength of the application. A community member states that the totality of numerous concerns with the application led many of the Cannabis Committee members to have legitimate reasons to reject the application, but none that amount to a concrete reason available to the Board. The motion failed with 13 in favor, 15 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Chairperson Weatherspoon makes a motion to table the item and request a 30 day extension. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

3. 4P Group LLC, on behalf of Amr Aldoais, 629 Nostrand Avenue (between Bergen and St. Marks) (d/b/a: Nostrand Nuggs)

Mr. Aldoais and his two business partners presented plans for their dispensary. They stated that they are three friends that came together and have been doing business together for a while now. They currently own and operate Xcellence restaurant on Ralph Avenue at Pacific Street in CB8 and Mr. Aldoais' father owns several bodegas in the district as well. They thought owing and operating a cannabis dispensary would be a great step in ensuring their legacies as three young black men (often the target of law enforcement for minor infractions), and also a tremendous opportunity for curious community members to learn about cannabis even if they do not consume, but also to buy products that are tested and regulated by the state. As their business is

on Nostrand Avenue and they are aware of the crime issues on the corridor, they will indeed have armed security. Additionally, they also intend to limit the number of customers in the store at any one time to about 5 to 7 patrons. So far, there is one licensed security guard on duty at all times and will seek to expand to 2 on each shift in the future for the dispensary that operated from Noon to 10 PM daily.

The applicants acknowledged that they prematurely opened their business before they realized the OCM licensing process. However, as soon as they were informed that they were illicitly operating, they pulled all THC containing products from shelves and are currently only selling CBD and CBG products.

There was considerable concern about the establishment currently operating, but the committee applauded the gentlemen's honesty about their operations. Additionally, several members and participants in attendance, including one member that has been outspoken against the proliferation of cannabis dispensaries on Nostrand Avenue, spoke in favor of the establishment and stated that it is well lit and well managed. They did not mention any complaints with the location and stated that the business is currently an asset to Nostrand Avenue.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community. Responding the standard question of "why Nostrand Avenue" and what does giving back to the community look like, the applicants stated that the location always spoke to them because of its proximity to great transportation and the busyness of the corridor. Additionally, as they or each of their parents own businesses in the vicinity of Nostrand Avenue, they were always in the area and recognized the potential for development on the Nostrand corridor. They have been getting to know their fellow business owners on the corridor and mentioned several proprietors of black-owned establishments. They did apologize for not speaking with the 77th precinct, and acknowledged that they made a mistake when notifying the municipality as they first notified CB3 and spoke with several officers of the 81st precinct. During their presentation before CB3, they were informed their business was in CB8. The error occurred because they had been told that the location was in the community known as Bedford Stuyvesant and not Crown Heights. Their plans to give back include working with the local precinct and community organizations on kids mentorship programs, and this was communicated to the 81st precinct and will be communicated with the 77th for input and feedback.

A community resident present asked the applicants what their intention would be if they are not selected in the OCM lottery, and the resident was informed that they would continue to sell CBD, CBG, and other non-THC containing hemp products.

The committee did not have a quorum, but the members present voted 6 in favor, 1 opposed to support the application in hopes that the full Board supports the applicant on the merits mentioned above.

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner stated that she appreciated that the applicants' family has business history in the district, but was curious how they ended up before Community Board 3 if they have experience in the community. The applicant stated that their lawyers made the error, and that they only realized the mistake once they came before Community Board 3 to present. A community resident asks about security and also how they plan to learn from their several mistakes and

avoid further legal and business errors. The applicants acknowledged their errors, and made promises that they would be more diligent if their application is successful.

Mr. Lapoint made a motion to support the application per the consensus of the committee, seconded by Mr. Staton. The motion passed with 18 in favor, 6 opposed and 7 abstentions.

4. Tree House, 69 6th Avenue (between Flatbush Ave and Bergen St)

Ms. Shirley Julien presented her plans for a cannabis dispensary at 69 6th Avenue. Ms. Julien stated that she was born and raised in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, is the child of Haitian immigrants and had been personally arrested many times for possession of small amounts of cannabis, which she stated is tantamount of the black experience in Brooklyn. While she initially had been smoking THC-containing cannabinoids for recreation, she learned quickly of the medicinal components as cannabis helped her overcome severe menstrual cramps resulting from endometriosis. Once she discovered that cannabis had health benefits, she started studying the product and was able to convince several family members with debilitating illnesses, including her mother suffering from Lupus, who was extremely skeptical of cannabis, to use cannabis products to assist their health and wellbeing. Because of her movement from cannabis solely for recreational purposes to medicinal uses as well, a primary focus of her dispensary will be on cannabis education for use in health and wellbeing.

A key component will be on organic cannabinoid products because we must all be mindful of what we put in our body. Her dispensary will sell not only cannabis flowers, but hemp infused cooking oils, edibles, tinctures, topicals—a complete wellness experience. The applicant also focused on the healing vibes of greenery, stating that since OCM guidelines require that passersby cannot see into the store via the windows, she would have “living curtains and walls” in the form of trees and shrubs for an immersive and grounding experience. Ms. Julien stated that customers need to feel comfortable in the space, and other products created by BIPOC and women-owned businesses will be on sale (such as clothing and apparel and other natural goods).

The applicant currently has a production company that provides various forms of media for multiple outlets. Her application included an impressive list of community benefits that her company currently endeavors in, and several more that will be generated and expanded with monies from the cannabis dispensary. These include sponsored suites at the Barclays Center for girls teams and a scholarship fund for private high school and college students. Ms. Julien provided several anecdotes of why scholarships are so important, citing the inability of minorities and immigrants to be able to save for college funds. Education is important as is the ability to pay for it across all years of school.

Several committee members took umbrage with the hours of operation of 8 AM to 1 AM daily. The applicant and other committee members mentioned the close proximity to the 78th precinct and the busy Flatbush Avenue, stating that this location is ideal for such hours. The applicant also stated that she is adamant about having armed licensed security guards to keep staff safe. Additionally, the hours are presented as they are to facilitate delivery of online sales orders, stating that she anticipates the majority of sales to be conducted online and via delivery. She has purchased the Dutchie POS [POS=point of sale] system as well as the OnFleet POS system to facilitate delivery. Recognizing the busyness of the area and the need to not clutter the street with

delivery drivers and bikes, she stated that the Dutchie and OnFleet systems would create ease and simplicity for drivers while increasing their safety. Also, Ms. Julien stated that safeguards will be in place to ensure that no employee works greater than 40 hours per week in alignment with labor laws. Several committee members were also concerned with delivery driver safety and suggested that Ms. Julien rotate drivers so they would not be recognized as delivering cannabis. Concerned members were informed that all drivers will know that in a robbery situation, let go of the product to ensure your safety as the product is ensured; the value is life over product. Also, no modes of transit will have markings indicating they are delivering cannabis, and aside from maybe cash tips (customers will be encouraged to tip with card payments), delivery people will not carry cash. All products will be paid for in advance and linked directly to OCM's POS tracking system. She stated that she would definitely utilize the feedback on delivery person rotation as another layer of security. Delivery people will be stationed at various locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan to be able to deliver on-demand when an order is placed—very similar to the way Uber and Lyft send the nearest car to your location.

District Manager Michelle George applauded the applicant for putting together the most impressive application that CB8 has received thus far. The sentiment was echoed by all present. The committee did not have a quorum but the 7 members present voted unanimously to support the application as presented and hopes the full Board supports the application on the merits presented above.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community. After minimal discussion, Ms. Ortiz-Joyner made a motion to support the application per the consensus of the committee, seconded by Ms. Atkinson.

The motion passed with 29 in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

Economic Development Committee – Brian Saunders, Chair

The Economic Development Committee has been working tirelessly on the City of Yes proposals pertaining to commercial zoning. After a 3 hour meeting, the committee agreed with only 3 of 18 proposals:

Proposal 3, Expand opportunities for small scale clean-production

Proposal 12, Introduce design rules that ensure buildings contribute to surroundings

Proposal 13, Reduce conflicts between auto repair and pedestrians

Chairperson Weatherspoon admonished the members of the Community Board that very few have reached out to give feedback on City of Yes, and that it is essential that everyone records their feelings on this, a transformational proposal by the city. Some members worked diligently on these proposals, but many more did not. A form will be submitted to committee members tomorrow, and must be returned same day. Chairperson Weatherspoon thanks the members of the committee for their hard work, but reiterates that the members need to engage directly with these proposals individually. Board Staff impress upon members that zoning text amendments become as of right, which can result in undesirable uses without any recourse from the community.

The public hearing on committee action items is complete, Chairperson Witherspoon asked if any members of the public would like to speak on issues of importance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Davis of the Bed Stuy Volunteer Ambulance Service appeared to announce that the service is expanding into Community District 8. They are looking forward to providing lifesaving medical services as well as public health education. The service covers all of Brooklyn North, and now some of Brooklyn South including all of CD8 and 9.

Finally, Chairperson Weatherspoon asked Committee Chairs to give reports from monthly meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment, Sanitation & Transportation – Robert Witherwax, Chair.

EST has split into several subcommittees that are considering a number of crucial issues related to transportation, and how to keep on top of projects in the district. Their next meeting will take place on Tuesday the 23rd.

Housing Advocacy – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair; Ms. Lisa Atkinson, Vice-Chair

In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Granville, Ms. Atkinson, Vice-Chair, notified that Board that the Housing Advocacy Committee did not meet this month. Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Land Use - Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Land Use committee did not meet this month; regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Crown Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee did not meet in the month of December; the next meeting will take place on the 22nd of January. At this meeting, the Sheriff's office will present with respect to illegal cannabis shops.

Seniors: - Gail Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors committee met and, among other items, was serenaded by the Statons. The committee meets every 1st Wednesday of month. The next meeting will take place on Feb 7th.

All business concluded, Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the assembled for their attendance and participation, adjourning the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Guests Present

Jennifer Jordan
Lula Staton
Dwayne Powell
Constance Lesold
Diana Foster
Matthew Willner
Afif Khon
Lynda Balsma
Janice Robinson
Peter Anekwe

Uma Bhandaram
Shirley Julien
Peter Krashes
Cheryl Walcott
Amanda Blair
Roger Myers
Ammar Elahi
Chief Ayeronde Davis
Juan Pichardo
Valerie Nero-Reid

Kurt Burger
Kevin Grant
Jay Crockett
Scott Weinstein
Katrina Thomas Markland
Celeste Moses
Deni DeYonker
Caplain LaToya Credle
Mary Woods