

**Community Board 8
Calvary Community Church
1575 St. John's Place
Brooklyn, NY 11233**

April 10, 2025

Members Present

Akua Aidoo
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Robert Callahan
Edward Delman
Dian Duke
Tamika Gibbs
Tafari John-King
Frances Langley
Robert Lapoint
Dr. Sarah Lazur
Lisa Maldonado
William Meehan
Kwasi Mensah
Mimi Mitchell
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Taraya Pettway
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Anika Roach
Conor Ross
Ezra Roth
Brian Saunders
Robin Smith
Meredith Staton
Katie Taylor
Dana Thompson
Mark Thurton
Esmond Turnbull
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

Sharon Alexis-Pierre
Peter Anekwe
Princess Benn-James
Benny Faygen
Nizjoni Granville
Mohammad Hassan
Jamell Henderson
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Briana Uwa
Gib Veconi
Kimberly Watson

Elected Officials Present

Chi Osse, Councilmember, Councilmember for the 36th District
Crystal Hudson, Councilmember for the 35th District
Darlene Mealy, Councilmember for the 41st District
Brian Cunningham, Assemblymember for the 43rd District

Elected Official Representatives

Janay Pierre, Office of Councilmember Crystal Hudson
Karen S., Office of Assemblywoman Pharah Soufrant-Forrest
Krista Reilly, Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie
Karen Chambers, Office of Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez
Adrienne Williams, Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker
Tamesha Thompson, Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy

CB8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Chair Weatherspoon welcomed the community and called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. To open the meeting, Chair Weatherspoon invited Kim Robinson to give words of welcome on behalf of Pastor Henry from Calvary Community Church.

Next, the Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting with any necessary corrections, made by Mr. Staton and seconded by Dr. Lazur.

DOT/MTA Presentation

Moving to the agenda for the evening, Chair Weatherspoon called representatives of the MTA and Department of Transportation present to discuss changes to the B14 bus on Eastern Parkway between Utica and Ralph Avenues. This project seeks to create ADA accessible bus stops, relocate stops along the B14, and will make changes to the historic median along Eastern Parkway.

Currently the B14 bus route begins at Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway on the service road. However, drivers have found that this starting point significantly impacts on time percentages due to congestion and the difficulty of turning on to the main road. As a result, the drivers begin their loading on the main roadway, installing loading ramps on the mall. This proposal seeks to formalize the informal route. Additionally, the Rochester Avenue stop is not currently ADA accessible, as there are currently planters and rough pavers. The project proposal would remove the Rochester Avenue stop and continue to Buffalo.

After the agency presentation, the Chair asked for questions from the public.

Mr. Delman asks if smooth pavers make the site ADA accessible. The agencies respond that rough pavers need to be removed, and add that Rochester is the same city block as Buffalo.

Ms. Wedderburn adds comment that current buses are “unofficially” on the main road; the service road cannot accommodate the number of bus routes that run through it. She believes this is an example of the “tail wagging the dog”. She is concerned that several schools and school children, especially middle schools, use this bus. Per her perspective, this plan will increase ADA accessibility to the detriment of the children who use the route. She also believes it will disadvantage motorists. In making her point, Ms. Wedderburn stood at the corner to observe the bus progress: in the evening it takes seven cars to make a turn. She believes that there must be more enforcement of the jitneys along Utica Avenue that obstruct service.

Mr. Thurton asks if the MTA will remove any other stops on the route. The response is that only the three on Eastern Parkway will be removed.

A community member asks how the pavers react to runoff in significant rain. DOT replies that both are permeable, allowing water to seep through. More important is the substrate or subbase that underlays the pavers, which they will review.

Ms. Taylor asks what step of the process this presentation represents. Agency representatives respond that the bus operators have chosen to perform the interim operation on their own; DOT would simply be making the upgrades. After the meeting tonight, the representatives will speak with Community Board 9, and then present before the Landmarks Preservation Commission, as the Eastern Parkway Mall is a landmark.

Mr. Thurton asks if the Rochester-Buffalo service road is popular, and what the new curb space will be used for. DOT is open for suggestions, reminding the assembled that only Rochester could be repurposed.

A community member asks if DOT has reached out to the affected Councilmember for feedback. As it is a draft proposal, DOT has not yet reached out but will share.

Dr. Lazur is in favor of making this route more ADA compliant and wants to know if there is a way to make a carve out in the street for the bus for more comfortable loading, because this is a high traffic area. DOT notes that currently on Eastern Parkway there is channelized space for breakdowns; this proposed route would be used for both breakdowns and bus loading.

Mr. Meehan asks DOT whether the bus stop (i.e. the curb) would be level with the bus floor. DOT says no, this would simply be made ready for kneeling buses or ramps.

Ms. Taylor asks if there will be any investment in any more seating, which is hard to come by. DOT responds that on the mall there are wooden benches, and each stop has benches. Because of historic nature, DOT benches cannot be installed, but if the Community Board feels there is a need for more seating products, they should communicate this soon for the presentation with LPC.

Ms. Taylor adds that at Buffalo there is a new east-bound turning lane; how will this change affect that? DOT replies that the bus continues through the intersection on the eastern side.

A community member wants to know if the agencies have data on the on-time improvement percentage. The DOT gives an example in reply, stating that the B17 immediately turns onto Utica, but the B14 must continue down the service road, and this affects the ability of the bus to be on time.

Ms. Wedderburn points out that this mall is host to immigrant vendors, many of whom are undocumented. She is concerned that this proposal would affect their livelihood. DOT

responds that as this is already happening, they find that the space at that intersection is mostly clear, and this would not dramatically increase the footprint needed for loading.

There is confusion in the room as to whether the comments presented tonight need to be formally submitted to the city for consideration. Tentatively, Mr. Witherwax makes a motion to transmit the board's feedback, seconded by Mr. Callahan. Ms. Wedderburn requests an amendment to ask for the community's comments to be included in the presentations in the future.

Mr. Witherwax comments appreciates that the presentation has been improved since the agencies presented to the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee.

Ms. Young notes that the EST committee did not make a motion and recommendation and is not sure how to proceed with a vote.

Board members ask for clarification on the timeline. The DOT and MTA will appear before LPC on the 22nd of April, saying that all design recommendations are good to have in writing.

Ms. Young is disappointed, saying that the EST committee feedback should have been presented.

After some discussion, a decision is made that a motion is unnecessary, and the feedback collected this evening will be delivered formally to the DOT and MTA by Board staff.

Sanitation Presentation

Next Chair Weatherspoon invited Assistant Commissioner Gbubemi Okotieuro from the Department of Sanitation's Intergovernmental Affairs Bureau to give a presentation about curbside composting.

Commissioner Okotieuro reminds the public that composting is now mandatory on recycling day once a week. He gives information about the mandatory usage of bins for small buildings, noting that the process for large buildings will be rolled out in future years.

At the end of his presentation, Chair Weatherspoon asks for questions.

Ms. Wedderburn asks about containerization. She has seen that 1-2 family home seniors have great difficulty moving cans to and from the curb. She wants to know what fines DSNY will levy. The Commissioner says the department is asking people to use 55 gallon or less in size. For seniors who have challenges, he offers to talk with Ms. Wedderburn to work with the community to manage the change.

She also asks how the public might report neighbors who still only use bags. He says that you have a right as a citizen to use 311 to complain; when the caller has the complaint number, they should give it to the Board staff to follow up.

A community member says that their landlord gets fined and does not pay the fines, that they also do not have a compost bin. They ask what escalation exists. DSNY replies that fines escalate from \$200 to \$400. Residents are also welcome to get any bin for purchase and put a free decal from DSNY on it. He assures the community member that it will become a problem for their landlord as fines continue to accumulate.

Another community member purchased the bins and they were stolen. They ask if someone is going to reimburse them. The department has heard about people stealing garbage cans; calling the police is the right choice. In the meantime, they are doing what they can to get free cans. The Commissioner clarifies that residents are required to purchase one bin. You can buy all three, but you don't need the recycling bins.

Mr. Staton saw sanitation workers on his block, take bags out of a bin and put the bags on ground. Mr. Okotieuro pleads that if someone sees this, they should report this to DSNY and include the truck number.

A community member wants to know about construction trash that occupies more than the bin, wanting to know if this is a fineable offense. Mr. Okotieuro offers to speak after.

Another community member noticed that the sanitation workers do not clean when a bag bursts.

Chair Weatherspoon intercedes, encouraging concerned community members to bring their questions to the EST Committee.

A final community member feels that the department is sending mixed signals, especially pertaining to landlords. She dutifully purchased containers because she wants property to be clean. It was frustrating to see the addition of more blue and green containers. She is concerned that enforcement is selective and other communities with piles of bags do not get as much enforcement.

The Assistant Commissioner assures her that there is a great deal of evidence that non-containerized garbage enforcement is uniform and reflective of communities that have not adopted the city's legal requirements. With that in mind, he encourages all members of the public who come across an officer that is not following the guidelines of the agency to let the central office know in order to correct the issue.

Chair Weatherspoon thanked Commissioner Okotieuro and called for elected officials to address the meeting.

Elected Officials

Assemblymember Brian Cunningham for the 43rd District

The state elected officials are still in Albany, ten days late passing a state budget. Generally, the Assembly is in session Monday – Thursday, which makes constituent services challenging. Mr. Cunningham explains that although the state budget is generally a document of numbers (\$238 billion), every Governor since George Pataki has used the budget to insert policy.

The Governor is hoping to roll back Discovery Reform. The Assemblymember says that although there was a rise in crime, it was on par with the national average and not necessarily attributable to state laws. Lawmakers are saying to the Governor that they want Discovery Reform to be out of the budget process and want to be able to report mentally ill people to NYPD who can commit them involuntarily for 72 hours. The state is also working on a cell phone ban from bell-to-bell in schools, a decision arrived after working with the teachers unions and principals. Next week the state will be back in session to pass hopefully the last extender.

Beyond the budget he has three bills of interest: a Sanitation bill to allow trucks to have cameras like buses to enforce Alternate Side Parking, High Impact Tutoring bill to reach reading and math milestones, and a Faith Based Affordable Housing (air rights for churches) bill.

Ms. Taylor tells Mr. Cunningham that the members are struck by how often CB8 budget proposals are eliminated by the City's OMB without meaningful consideration. She asks if the Assemblymember could review the board's budget proposals to understand why. Mr. Cunningham tells the meeting that the Assembly has a subcommittee on Infrastructure, which has been without a Chair since 2015. He will Chair the committee next year and make it a platform to champion infrastructure in the future.

Ms. Wedderburn wants to know if the cell phone ban is a statewide solution. Mr. Cunningham says that the "pencils are down" on this issue, and it is statewide. The bill includes a \$13.5 billion investment to have safe storage for phones; they are still fine-tuning responses to specific cases, such as parents contacting children in emergencies.

Ms. Wedderburn also makes mention that large parts of CB8 are landmarked and have a large aging community and wants to take care that the district avoids a situation like the church at Vanderbilt and Atlantic, which sold its air rights to a 30 story building next door.

Mr. Cunningham replies that the bill accounts for contextual zoning and landmarks and provides infrastructure to support church leaders who may not be experienced with land deals.

Mr. Puca is also concerned about the Faith Based Housing Act, as it would fully nullify any future landmark and zoning regulations. The Assemblymember explains that these are talking points, and his bill would not override citywide zoning. He offers to speak with Mr. Puca and adds that he does not believe that this bill will pass this year.

Mr. Delman thanks the Assemblymember for the school cell phone ban. He wants to know if lawmakers are factoring in potential Federal budget cuts. Mr. Cunningham says the State is trying to balance by creating reserves. Their approach is purposefully cautious, understanding that they may have to come back for special sessions because of Medicaid and Medicare. He is watching the Federal budget negotiations closely.

A community member inquires about a workshop on urban planning and land trusts which was meant to be last Saturday at Jackie Robinson Playground. Mr. Cunningham says that the organizers shifted the meeting to his district office because of the inclement weather. He apologizes and will speak with future organizers about communicating when plans change.

Ms. Muhammad is concerned about state Corrections recently, as there are many people like Robert Brooks who have been tragically killed or harmed by DOCCS employees. Mr. Cunningham relays that he has been getting to know Assemblymember Gibbs, the first formerly incarcerated state lawmaker, who has done good work by giving insight to this community.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy for the 45th District

The Councilmember had her monthly meeting on Sunday at Brooklyn Children's Museum. Currently she is focused on the budget. She expresses concern that a family shelter was converted into a men's shelter in her district. Her advice to the public is that it is important to speak up when you see something. Her legislative priority is to maximize building affordable housing on city lots and asks people to keep agencies accountable to projects in the district.

A community member is concerned for children who are disabled after the turmoil at the Federal Department of Education; they are also concerned about Social Security. The Councilmember directs these questions to Congresswoman Yvette Clark's representative, who is in attendance.

Tendai Watkins, office of Assemblymember Stefani Zimmerman

Ms. Watkins announces that the Marcus Garvey Armory is being developed, and that there will be town halls coming soon. She acknowledges that this is not in the district, but it is important to learn lessons if the district's Bedford Armory is developed next.

She promotes the 33rd annual handball event at St. Johns Park on April 26th.

Additionally, tomorrow, April 11th there will be a two-day Jackie Robinson event on sustainable pathways from little league to majors at Herbert Von King Park.

The Chair thanked the elected officials for their words and called the first Action Items of the evening from the Land Use Committee.

Housing & Land Use Committee – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Housing & Land Use Committee met on Thursday, April 3, 2025. The committee met to follow up on the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP). The committee voted 25 in favor with 1 abstention to support the following resolution:

Brooklyn Community Board 8 hereby notifies the Brooklyn Borough President, the City Planning Commission, and the New York City Council (the Parties) that the Board's support for the approval of the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan is contingent upon

1. MIH Options 1 and 2 being removed from the application;
2. Incentive FAR for non-residential use including 0.5 FAR restricted to light-industrial, arts-related, cultural, civic and repair and production service uses; and
3. A City commitment of \$10,000,000 annually to fund free representation to tenants and small homeowners in community district 8 affirmative and defensive cases;

All were previously expressed in the Board's resolution expressing conditional approval for AAMUP. The Parties are notified that a redevelopment plan without these elements is not supported by the Board.

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Wedderburn gives an overview of the history of the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan, known as AAMUP, and its predecessor MCROWN, which has been in development since 2010. She stresses that the committee places a strong emphasis on limiting displacement over more nominally affordable housing. In spite of this, many of the seven conditions for 'approval voted on by the Community Board are no longer part of the rezoning.

Dr. Lazur asks if there has been a vote, and if there will be a hearing. Ms. Wedderburn says that the Councilmember is the single largest voting consideration for other members due to Member Deference.

Ms. Mitchell notes that in 2021, the Gowanus Rezoning Plan had many of the same elements requested by this community, but in this case the Points of Agreement were rejected.

Chair Wedderburn says that of the deciding bodies, only the Department of City Planning had objections.

Dr. Lazur makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Mitchell.

The motion passes with 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

The Housing & Land Use Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, next on May 1st at 810 St. Marks Avenue at 6:30 PM.

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

The SLAC committee met on Monday, April 7, 2025. The committee discussed the following applications:

A. New Liquor License Applications

1. **Bong** - 724 Sterling Pl (Bedford Ave/ Franklin Ave) – Wine, beer, cider license

Details of the application include:

- Hours of Operation: daily from 7am - 1am
- Method of operations inclusive of recorded music, karaoke, amplified sound
- 6 tables with 18 seats; max capacity 18
- Cambodian cuisine

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

Hearing no discussion, Mr. Meehan makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Staton.

The motion passes with 26 in favor 0 opposed and 4 abstentions.

2. **Uncle Roger's** - 704 Nostrand Ave (Prospect Pl/ St. Marks Ave) – Full license requiring 500 foot exception

Presented details of the application included the following:

- *Hours of Operation: Indoors daily from 12pm - 4am; rear yard 12pm – 12am*
- *Method of operations inclusive of DJ, recorded music, juke box, video/ arcade, licensed security*
- *Indoor seating composed of two floors (ground floor bar and cellar lounge) max capacity 70 on each floor*
- *Licensed Rear Yard with 5 tables/ 24 seats; max capacity: 24*
- *Applicant has stated they plan to join the Nostrand Avenue Merchants Association*

A neighbor from an abutting property was in attendance to inform the committee of issues with noise from the previous establishment that was in the space. They shared video and audio files documenting exactly how loud the sound was in the rear yard of the space.

The committee voted unanimously with 15 in favor to support the application with the following stipulations:

- *Indoor service to end daily at 2AM and the rear yard to close at 10PM daily*
- *Outdoor maximum capacity at 24 with the door to remain closed when not in use*
- *Operable windows at façade to be closed at 10pm daily.*
- *Basement not to be used for patrons or any other use than storage per the building's certificate of occupancy until or unless the applicant receives a letter of no objection from the Dept. of Buildings*
- *Sound attenuation for rear yard inclusive of canopy or umbrellas and no allowance for outdoor amplified sound (speakers, games, televisions, etc.)*

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chair Weatherspoon mentions that the bar has triggered the 500 foot rule, which states that if a new bar opens in a significantly dense population of bars, it must write a justification for how it will differentiate itself from its surroundings and enrich the community. The representatives give a history of their work in hospitality and the concept of the establishment.

A community member who lives close to the proposed business reads a statement. She has had painful experiences with the previous business at this location. She understands that this is a new business but has concerns that this business will have similar issues, like constant noise, from a new business operating in the same building.

Chair Weatherspoon notes that this concern was brought up in the SLA committee, and that the owners have made assurances that they will operate differently with additional soundproofing.

Mr. Puca adds that at the committee meeting he suggested that the owners give direct contact information to the neighbors in case of issues.

Ms. Mitchell makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Delman.

The motion passes with 27 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

B. Dining Out Applications

The committee heard several Dining Out applications. For efficiency, the applications will be voted on as a group with those recommended for approval without modification, those recommended for approval with modifications, and those not recommended for approval.

1. Recommended for approval as presented and without conditions/exceptions:

- *Finn's - 660 Washington Ave / Bergen St (corner) – SIDEWALK*
- *Morgan's - 267 Flatbush Ave/ St Marks Ave (corner) – SIDEWALK*
- *R&D - 602 Vanderbilt Ave/ Prospect Pl/ St Marks Ave (corner) – SIDEWALK*
- *Shane's - 794 Washington Ave St. (St Johns Pl/ Sterling Pl) – SIDEWALK*
- *Radio Bakery - 186 Underhill Ave (St Johns Pl/ Sterling Pl) – SIDEWALK*
- *Poke Tiky - 564 Vanderbilt Ave (Dean St & Bergen St) – SIDEWALK*
- *Nurish - 637 Washington Ave / Bergen St (corner) - SIDEWALK*
- *La Mode - 1401 Bedford Ave (near corner St Marks Ave) - ROADWAY*

The committee voted unanimously with 15 in favor to support all 7 sidewalk applications as presented.

Ms. Maldonado's only issue is with Radio Bakery, where the lines are very long. She asks about the dining out footprint. Mr. Witherwax says that it will remain as it is currently with some small tables.

A community member asks for the minimum distance between the curb and edge of seating. Mr. Witherwax says that the minimum is 8 feet.

Ms. Nottingham returns to Radio Bakery: the Land Use committee reviewed a sign application, which proposed a flat sign; there appears to be a triangular sign. She is instructed to send a picture to the district office.

Dr. Lazur makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Ross.

The motion passes with 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

2. Recommended for approval with modifications:

- Bagel Pub - 775 Franklin Avenue/ St. Johns Pl (corner) - SIDEWALK

Recommended for approval conditioned upon confirmation that the barrier on St. John's Place meets DOT specification with respect to clearance of the vault openings.

- Gueros - 605 Prospect Pl/ Franklin Ave (near corner) - SIDEWALK

Recommended for approval conditioned upon removal of the existing enclosure around the sidewalk café and assurance that it has been replaced with a set-up meeting specifications.

- Sharlene's - 353 Flatbush Ave (near Park Pl/ Sterling Pl) - SIDEWALK

Recommended for approval with the modification that outdoor service ends at 10pm.

The committee voted unanimously with 14 in favor to recommend approval for the four applications with the necessary modifications in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Puca asks whether the SLA committee always requests 10 PM closure for outdoor seating. Mr. Witherwax says that it is the Board's standard recommendation even as the City's is midnight.

Mr. Meehan makes a motion to support its recommendation, seconded by Mr. Staton.

The motion passes with 29 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions

3. Applications not recommended for approval:

- Savvy Bistro - 710 Nostrand Ave/ Prospect Pl (corner) – SIDEWALK
- Savvy Bistro - 710 Nostrand Ave/ Prospect Pl (corner) - ROADWAY

The applicant's information submitted to DOT was neither complete nor accurate. Additionally, the existing uses for the sidewalk café are nonconforming (café is fully enclosed and much larger than allowable considering the sidewalk width). The committee felt that it could not properly vet the application with the misinformation and blatant misuse of the program at this time.

The committee voted unanimously with 14 in favor of not recommending the two applications for approval at this time and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Watson makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Langley.

The motion passes with 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

The SLA Committee meets on the First Monday of the month, next on May 5th at 810 St. Marks Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Environment, Sanitation & Transportation Committee – Robert Witherwax, Chair

At the March 13, 2025 CB8 general meeting, Chair Weatherspoon tabled the vote on sending the report of data to the Dept. of Transportation regarding Underhill Bike Boulevard pending member review of the full report. The data was sent to the full membership body and any community member that requested a copy on March 14, 2025 for review and two comments were received. As such, the previous recommendation of the EST committee to present the data report to the NYC Dept. of Transportation for review to see if modifications or amendments are necessary in lieu of submitting recommendations for change to the agency still stands. The committee hopes the full Board will support the recommendation to send the data.

Lynda Balsama asks the Chair why the report did not include feedback from the live testimony. Mr. Witherwax replies that the full testimony was included in the report, and parts were included in the summary. Ms. Balsama asks, and Mr. Witherwax reads the parts of the report that were included in the summary.

A Community member says that PHNDC has a conflict of interest on this vote and wants to know if they will recuse themselves from this vote.

Ms. Mitchell asks for clarification - who has a conflict, and why?

There is some discussion amongst the board, but no evidence of a specific conflict is produced,

Ms. Taylor makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Langley.

The motion passes with 23 in favor, 0 opposed and 7 abstentions.

The EST committee ran out of time hearing from Bus presentation, but Mr. Witherwax assures that the next meeting will be on Environment and Sanitation issues

The EST Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, next on May 22nd at 810 St. Marks Ave at 6:30 PM.

Executive Committee – Robert Callahan, Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at the CB8 District office. The committee discussed the Open Streets applications that have been recently approved by the NYC Dept. of Transportation. The locations are as follows:

1. Vanderbilt Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Park Place on Saturdays from May 3, 2025 through September 27, 2025 from 11 AM to 11PM.
2. Franklin Avenue from St. Marks Avenue to Eastern Parkway on Saturdays from June 7, 2025 to October 25, 2025 from 11AM to 7PM.
3. Prospect Place between Grand and Classon Avenues on Saturdays from July 5, 2025 through July 26, 2025 from 8 AM to 8PM.

The committee voted 7 in favor with 2 abstentions to abide by the agreement between the community partners and the Dept. of Transportation. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Delman asks what the board means with the phrase “abide by.” Chair Weatherspoon responds that it means the board is not objecting to the agreement.

Dr. Lazur asks if DOT gave The Board an explicit answer about where the bus on Franklin will be rerouted. As of yet, there has been no answer.

Tiara Robinson, a representative from sponsoring organization Bridge Street rises to say that the answer is still worked on through the chain of command at the City. She also notes that the Open Street is only operating from 12-6; one hour on each side is for setup and takedown.

Ms. Watson asks if DOT or Bridge Street reached out to the people along the avenue to get feedback from those who would be directly impacted by the closure.

Ms. Robinson says that the OS will operate every other Saturday. The street will not be closed on days with inclement weather, and on holidays.

Mr. Mensah expresses frustration that this will make driving more difficult.

Ms. Young says that there are people who are for and against open streets. She believes that the way that Franklin Avenue has come to the table has been important, where there have been concessions and consideration for the things that community members have been concerned about.

Ms. Balsama agrees and was pleased with the presentation. UNPCH started because of Vanderbilt Open Streets and wishes that PHNDC were present to give a similar presentation.

Ms. Young reminds the members and public that the board does not apply to the OS program and does not make the decisions. She feels that with respect to Vanderbilt Open Streets, consideration must be given to the fact that the footprint is significantly reduced this year, even if it does not meet all the demands of detractors.

Mr. Saunders adds that every recommendation produced by UNPCH was heard, packaged by the committees of the community board and transmitted by DOT.

Mr. Puca makes a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Staton.

The motion passes with 16 in favor, 4 opposed and 9 abstentions.

Lastly, Chair Weatherspoon takes brief reports from committees, beginning with the Nominating Committee

Nominations Committee – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders reads the list of recommendations produced after canvassing by the committee.

Nominees

Board Chair: Irsa Weatherspoon and Anika Roach

1st Vice Chair: Gail Muhammad and Robert Witherwax

2nd Vice Chair: Deborah Young

3rd Vice Chair: Nizjoni Granville and Fior Ortiz-Joyner

Treasurer: Taraya Pettway

Secretary: Kimberly Watson and Conor Ross

Sgt at Arms: Tamika Gibbs

The elections will be held in person at the regular monthly meeting, Thursday May 8th.

A copy of the slate will be provided to members, and nominees are allowed to campaign for their positions.

No additional nominations for officer positions were suggested from the floor.

Health & Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health & Human Services Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month, next on April 17th at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Public Safety Committee – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month, next on April 28th at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM

Seniors Committee – Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad notes that at the last meeting, a Councilmember's office gave info on SCRIE and DRIE, vital city programs for financial relief.

The Seniors Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, next on May 7th at 1055 St. Johns Place in the Activity Room at 6:00 PM.

Veterans Committee – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Veterans Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month, next on May 20th at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM.

With the business of the board concluded, Chair Weatherspoon makes a motion to adjourn at 9:50 PM.

Guests Present

Peter Glazier
Nadja Byrd
Shirley M.
Xeerxeema Jordan
Matthew Pavoni
Lula Staton
Julius Busecke
Cheryl Walcott
Adrienne G.
Lina Pinciario
Lesley Brown
Nicole Lee
Chris Hrones
Lesley Steele
James Mitchell
Valerie Nero-Reid

Iris Bowen
Traci Nottingham
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Ryan Christman
Nami Tanaka
Luther Williams
Diana Baide
Abigail Frederick
Roger Myers
Loreto D.
Gail Duran
Lynda Balsama
Terranc Ratliff
Alexander Chaparu
Julia Bryant
Melina Bernardine
Denise Deyonker
Kayla Melarthy
Alton Pierce
Thella Rogers
Ruby Edlir
Debra Worthington
Betty Davis
Samantha Bernardine
John Dewind
Wadell English
Isaac S.