

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

**November 14, 2019**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Nora Daniel  
Dian Duke  
Andrea Ferris  
Drew Gabriel  
Tamika Gibbs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Marva Henry  
Xerxeema Jordan  
Regina Kinsey  
Dr. Sarah Lazur  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adam Sachs  
Brian Saunders  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Greg Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young

**CB 8 Staff**

Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

**Members Absent/Excused**

Hanjy Charles  
Helen Coley  
Phu Duong  
James Ellis  
Fred Frazier  
Eunice Ko  
Elaine Mahoney  
Robert Matthews  
Dr. Katharine Perko  
Robert Puca  
Yahya Raji  
Mark Thurton  
Sheryl Vassell  
Yves Vilus  
Vilma Zuniga

**Elected Officials Present**

Senator Zellnor Myrie, 20<sup>th</sup> SD  
Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, 43<sup>rd</sup> AD

**Elected Official Representatives**

Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Sameul  
Karen Chambers, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
Arna Lipkind, Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo  
Richard Bearak, Borough President Eric Adams  
Eddie Amadour, Councilman Robert Cornegy  
Jamal Pollard, Borough President Eric Adams

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The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:10 PM by Ms. Tyus, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the November meeting and asked Mr. Wayne Bailey, Sergeant at Arms, to go over basic housekeeping rules. She then invited Ms. Delores Hill of Calvary Community Church, to say a few words of welcome.

Ms. Hill welcomed everyone to Calvary and thanked Ms. Tyus for the donation on behalf of Reverend Henry's recently transitioned wife to the Crown Heights Youth Initiative. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and invited everyone to attend Calvary's Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11:30 AM.

Ms. Tyus thanked Ms. Hill for the welcome and opened the floor to elected official representatives and public comments.

**Mr. Richard Bearak** from Borough President Eric Adams' office announced that the previous evening, BP Adams held a public hearing on the Grand/Pacific Re-zoning, an item the Board would vote on later in the meeting. Mr. Bearak stated that the BP's office would be accepting written comments until the end of the month and would release his recommendation on the zoning change application at that time. He encouraged everyone to submit comments on the zoning change application to [askeric@brooklynbp.gov](mailto:askeric@brooklynbp.gov).

**Mr. Eddie Amadour** from Councilman Robert Cornegy's office announced that Councilman Cornegy is hosting a Community Baby Shower in December. Additional details will be given at a later date. The community baby shower is an opportunity for expecting mothers to receive items of care for newborns and also to communicate with current mothers and ask questions. Additionally, the Councilman is hosting a turkey giveaway for residents in the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District. Please call the district office at 718-919-0742 to submit proof of address to get a free turkey.

**Ms. Kim Robinson** from Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel's office wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. She stated that Councilwoman Ampry-Samuel is also having a turkey giveaway for residents of the 41<sup>st</sup> council district. Please call the district office at 718-953-3097 to provide proof of residency in the 41<sup>st</sup> CD and reserve your turkey.

**Ms. Karen Chambers** from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office encouraged residents to sign up for the DA's mailing list and newsletter. Also if you have any concerns or questions, please call her at 718-250-4877.

**Mr. Keith Daily** from Assemblyman Walter Mosely's office provided a few updates from the Assemblyman, including a plea for everyone to understand the importance of the 2020 Census. Additionally, Mr. Daily announced that the Assemblyman favors and supports the recent approval of Ranked Choice Voting in city elections that was passed overwhelmingly in the general election. For further information, please call their district office at (718) 596-0100.

**Ms. Arna Lipkind** from Majority Leader Cumbo's office announced that the MTA/NYC Transit is hosting hearings on "Fast Forward New York," a Brooklyn bus network re-design, where the MTA is seeking input on re-designing existing bus routes to make them faster and more reliable. She urged everyone to participate in upcoming steering sessions that the CB 8 district office has distributed, and also to complete the MTA's survey available on their website, [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info). Additionally, Ms. Lipkin announced the Majority Leader's upcoming Diabetes Information session as Central Brooklyn is home to a very large diabetic population. Finally, the Councilwoman is also hosting her own turkey giveaway for Thanksgiving to residents of the 35<sup>th</sup> Council District. Like all other councilmembers, proof of residency is required. Call the office to reserve your turkey today. Fixings for a full meal are available as well. Additional information on any of these upcoming events can be obtained by calling the Councilwoman's office at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Tyus thanked everyone for their information and asked for roll call.

**Correspondence** – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Tyus asked for a report from the following committees:

**Environment, Sanitation, and Transportation Committee** – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair; Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Vice Chair

The committee was scheduled to meet at the Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, but due to confusion of members on the meeting location, an impromptu meeting was held at IMPACCT Brooklyn located at 1000 Dean Street. Present were: Desmond Atkins; Janet Collins; Holly Fuchs; Alan Gerber, Francis Langley; Katharine Perko; Celeste Stern; Irsa Weatherspoon; and Deborah Young. Ms. Weatherspoon chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. Witherwax. The committee briefly discussed asking the NYC Dept. of Transportation to revisit the residential loading zone program to ensure that those reliant on vehicular transport have a safe way to make their stops, drop off, and pick up, all without double parking and creating another safety problem on our streets

The committee will focus on the rodent problem at the next meeting, which will not be until January 2021 at a location to be determined.

**Health/Human Services** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

Mr. Mensah announced that the Health Committee will meet on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place. The committee will discuss the Nurses Association's Safe Staffing proposal.

**Housing (Advocacy)** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Albany Community Center located at 164 Troy Avenue. The committee is preparing for a housing workshop to address the new rent laws. Ms. Granville stated that it is imperative that the information people need is brought to them so they know what their rights are, thus allowing them to successfully navigate the housing system in any instance they believe their landlord to be abusing them in some way, overcharging, not making repairs, or presents them with information related to their housing situation (such as rent increases, changes in a lease, or eviction notices). The next meeting will be in January 2021.

**Land Use** – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Janet Collins, Nora Daniel, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Peter Krashes, Sarah Lazur, Katharine Perko, Robert Puca, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Carl Riddle, Cathy Iselin, Fred Baptiste, Richard Kreshtool, James Cleary, Jessica Ortiz, Elon Lebovich, Lore Croghan, Ethan Lustig-Elgrably, Jonah Rogoff, Richard Bearak, Klaus Mikelsteins, Elie Pariente, Jonathan Marable, Richard Lobel, Erica Holder, Jeremy Zuidema, Ben Verde. The committee discussed the following items:

**1. LPC application for 825 Prospect Place**

James Cleary, R.A., presented a proposal on behalf of the building's owners to:

- Convert the building's use from single-family residence, to 3-family;
- Gut renovate the building's interior;

- Perform restorative work at the building's main facades, including repointing brick work, repairing and restoring of the building's bay window, cornice and other elements;
- Install new windows;
- Add a new rooftop addition to the building. The addition will not be visible from directly across the street, but would be visible from either side of the building;
- Remove several feet of the existing building at the rear of the building (to create a zoning compliant 30' deep rear yard), and construct a new rear façade

Neighbors Sandy and Kenneth Allen, of 827 Prospect Place, expressed opposition specifically to the proposed rooftop addition, which they fear would severely reduce the amount of light that reaches all of the living spaces on that side of their home, and the location of the lift addition, which would reduce the clearance of shared space between the houses, citing the unique history of 825 and 827 as homes built by sisters and designed to have open shared space between them. It was acknowledged by Mr. Cleary that the only other building on this block with a rooftop addition is at 815 Prospect Place (approved by LPC in February 2017), which is smaller and less visible than the proposed addition at 825 Prospect Place. The LPC hearing for this proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

A motion was made and seconded to withhold support for the project on the grounds that the materials and the bulk of the rooftop addition would create a discontinuity (be out of context) from the historical streetscape. The committee passed the motion with 11 in support and 1 abstention. We hope the full Board will support the committee's recommendation.

Mr. Ken Allen, the property owner of 827 Prospect Place, stated that he inspected the mock-up of the proposed roof addition and it is visible on both sides of the street. 815 prospect was quoted as the precedent for this applicant, but their rooftop addition cannot be seen from the street. Ms. Tyus informed him that his comments would be included in the letter to LPC so that it is documented. Mr. Allen continued, stating that the rooftop addition isn't the only problem; also, the gate being moved is a problem as what they are proposing will block access to the basement door of 827 Prospect, while also creating a misaligned look for the yard.

Ms. Young stated that the Crown Heights North Association does not support the project. The applicant did not contact the community organization as per the direction of the CB 8 district office for any LPC application, and as such, CHNA was not able to the review the proposal outside of the Land Use Committee and determine what impacts, if any, there would be on the landmarked district.

Mr. Puca asked the architect to address the concerns and respond to them accordingly. The architect stated that the rooftop addition is shown as visible on all drawings. Additionally, it is true that 815's addition is smaller, but it is also visible from the street, and he contested the statement that it is not. To address the fence issue, he stated to Mr. Allen that his firm has no right to do anything on their property, but would like to find a compromise where both sides would be happy. Mr. Puca responded and stated that the construction is converting the single family residence into condos, and conversions such as that is destroying the character of the neighborhood and historic houses.

Ms. Tyus reminded everyone that the application was not supported by the land use committee. Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation to withhold support for the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

## **2. DCP application for 527 Grand Avenue/956-979 Pacific Street Rezoning**

Attorney Richard Lobel of Sheldon Lobel, PC, architect Jeremy Zuidema of Archimaera, and Elie Pariente of EMP Capital presented a proposal to rezone Block 1133, Lots 7, 10, 11, 12, and part of 13 and Block 1125, Lot 1 from an M1-1 zoning to an R7D/C2-4 zoning. This proposed rezoning would enable the applicant to build a 9-story, 64-unit building, of which 25% of units would be affordable under Option 1 of the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) program, and ground floor commercial use, 25% of which would be set aside for M- CROWN commercial type uses, as specified in recent M-CROWN resolutions. The proposed site of development lies within the area currently being considered for rezoning under the M- CROWN initiative.

Mr. Lobel and Mr. Pariente emphasized that Mr. Pariente has attended several M-CROWN subcommittee meetings over the years and used the subcommittee’s discussions as a guide for this proposed development. Gib Veconi, member of the Land Use committee and the M- CROWN subcommittee, explained that as proposed, this application does fit within the M- CROWN framework by 1) bringing 16 units of affordable housing to the area, and 2) committing to providing space for designated M-CROWN type uses. He also explained that there are some potential concerns with the application—specifically that R7D zoning permits buildings larger than M-CROWN proposes for the designated Mixed Use Subzone (which this building would be located in), and that there isn’t a strong way of enforcing the developers’ intention to devote up to 25% of the ground floor commercial space to M- CROWN uses. Mr. Lobel stated that the City Council does not currently add enforceable requirements beyond those included in existing zoning regulations for elements like the manufacturing space proposed for the ground floor of this site.

Other members of the committee and community members inquired about the anticipated rents for both the market-rate and affordable units, the estimated time of completion of the project, and whether the developer would add trees and plantings on the sidewalks outside of the proposed building. Jessica Ortiz of 32BJ asked how many jobs outside of the commercial floor that the building would accommodate, and Mr. Pariente answered that there would be 4-5 total jobs, 2 of which would be fulltime. Some committee members criticized the application’s proposed FAR of 5.6 for exceeding the 4-5 FAR specified for the “mixed-use district” outlined in the September 2019 M-CROWN resolution passed by CB8 and in the August 2018 letter signed by Councilmember Cumbo, Borough President Adams, and then- CB8 Chair Granville. Community and committee members worried that the applicant’s proposed R7D rezoning would set a precedent in terms of FAR that could influence the current framework for M-CROWN. On Wednesday, November 13, Borough President Eric Adams held a hearing on this proposal, and will accept written commentary for 30-days after CB8 votes on this matter at the November full Board meeting (comments can be emailed to: [Askeric@brooklynbp.gov](mailto:Askeric@brooklynbp.gov)).

Upon motion made and seconded, the committee voted to support the application as presented, with 9 in favor, 4 against, and 0 abstentions. The committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi proposed what he considers are some ways to address the issues of enforceability of commitment made by developers. He stated that he found out recently an issue with the application for 1010 Pacific Street, which is that the lot was sold after the zoning was approved and the new developer will not follow the approved and agreed upon commitments as they do not have to by law. Mr. Veconi read to the Board a resolution to help address the issue of enforceability that he crafted with the aid of a number of land use experts.

The resolution is as follows:

RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board 8 withholds its support of the Grand/Pacific Rezoning (ULURP applications 190256ZMK and N190257ZRK), pending the following conditions being met:

1. That the boundary of the area to be rezoned be limited to block 1125, lot 1, and if that is not possible, that the area to be rezoned south of Pacific Street be zoned to R7A/C2-4;

2. That the applicant make a binding commitment to allocate at least 0.25 FAR of the commercial ground floor to uses identified by Community Board 8 as “M-CROWN uses,” specifically, use groups 3, 4, 7B, 7D, 8B, 9A (limited to caterers, laboratories, printers, studios), 10A (limited to photographic or motion picture production studios, and radio or television studios), 11, 12B (limited to commercial art galleries), 16B, 16D (excluding self-service storage facilities), 17A, 17B, and 18A (limited to beverages, alcoholic or breweries); said commitment taking a form that provides for monitoring and enforcement, and survives transfer of ownership of the subject property; and
3. That the applicant further commit to limiting the height of the proposed development to nine (9) stories.

Should the conditions stated in this resolution not be met, Brooklyn Community Board 8 recommends the rezoning be amended to R7A/C2-4.

Further, Brooklyn Community Board 8 states that its action on the above applications shall not be construed as precedent for densities to be determined for any future re-zonings of Grand Avenue and Classon Avenue that may transpire as part of its M-CROWN initiative.

Mr. Veconi made a motion that the Board adopt the above resolution as its official opinion on the Grand/Pacific re-zoning. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs, and the floor opened for additional comments.

Ms. Tyus informed those present that the addition of this resolution is working outside of normal parliamentary procedures, but allowed for comment.

Dr. Lazur asked if the resolution requires that the resolution must be met before the zoning is changed, and if it applies in perpetuity. Mr. Veconi stated that with the resolution, the Board is sending a message down the line to others that will review the application that there must be a binding commitment that the agreement promised must be kept.

Mr. Parienti, the project developer, stated, as discussed with Mr. Veconi, the intention is to build the building as presented and incorporate the M-CROWN’s committee’s desired use. They are already looking for tenants to occupy the space within the use groups dictated by the M-CROWN committee, and they as a team, are ok with whatever conditions and mandates are given to them to make the development project happen.

Ms. Elaine Weinstein stated that she does not understand why the board would rush and vote on something that has not been written yet and reviewed, stating that a great deal more context has been added that needs to be discussed so an informed decision could be reached

Mr. Veconi and Mr. Bearak both stated that the Board is under a strict timeline as per ULURP rules and the vote cannot be held over but for so long.

Ms. Cathy Iselin acknowledged the good faith of the developer to work things out with the board. However, she stated that the Board has some work to do to define “good faith” as it need to examine what it has committed to and what the long term ramifications would be.

Mr. Krashes expressed his concerns with the change the Board is willing to accept, citing the joint letter written in the summer of 2018 signed by then Chairperson Granville, Councilwoman Cumbo, and Borough President Adams asking for a much lower FAR and a zoning of R7A for reduced density. This application and subsequent approval is antithetical to the specific parameters of the zoning requested by the MCROWN

subcommittee, and consequently can have much broader long term negative impacts. Furthermore, Mr. Krahses called into the question the benefit of the agreement read by Mr. Veconi, and stated that the Board is making an exchange that gives the developer much more than what the Board is getting in return despite setting a dangerous precedent with the zoning.

Mr. Puca reminded everyone that the project was supported in the Land Use meeting, but the new resolution requests the Board withhold support unless the conditions set forth in the resolution are met. He disputed Mr. Krashes' statement that the Board is not getting anything of value, stating that the trade-off of getting the agreement in writing has never happened before, and is guaranteed so long as the property address remains in existence.

Mr. Bailey asked what the community benefit is of the resolution, and Mr. Veconi stated that as part of the MCROWN vision, it is the goal of the Board to keep wage paying jobs for individuals with scant skills and education. The use groups identified in the resolution provide these jobs. Members of the 32-BJ union supported the resolution and commitment of the developer to hire four individuals.

To make the language of understanding easier, Ms. Tyus: stated that the resolution as presented is seeking to add a restrictive covenant to the zoning change. The motion that the Board adopt the above resolution as its official opinion on the Grand/Pacific re-zoning was repeated and again seconded by Ms. Gibbs. It carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

### **3. LPC application for 270 Prospect Place**

Rick Kreshtool, R.A., presented a proposal on behalf of the building's owners to:

- Add a 2-story, 7-foot deep extension to the rear of the building;
- Build a 12-foot long deck

The LPC hearing for this proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the committee voted to support the application, with 11 in support and 2 abstentions. We hope the full Board will support the committee's recommendation.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Lastly, Ms. Tyus reported that the committee also discussed drafting a letter of support for Brooklyn Botanical Gardens "Fight for Sunlight" campaign against proposed high-rise project at 960 Franklin Ave. Mr. Ethan Lustig-Elgrably, Director of Government and Community Affairs for Brooklyn Botanical Gardens (BBG), gave a presentation on the organization's engagement in a campaign to revise the proposed development of an 400-foot tall (about 39-stories) building in Community Board 9, which in its current proposed state would cast shadows that could mean a loss of enough winter sunlight to render BBG's conservatories and propagation houses nonfunctional. He noted that since these are the spaces where BBG grows plants for the entire garden and since these spaces were initially called out for preservation in a 1991 contextual rezoning of the area, this issue is relevant to all residents of Crown Heights and Brooklyn who enjoy the Garden. Mr. Fred Baptiste, Chair of Brooklyn Community Board 9, reported that as of November 7, the developers' plans for this location had been filed with the Dept. of City Planning (DCP), meaning that the ULURP process has begun. Earlier this year, CB9 passed a resolution against the scoping of this site and, now that ULURP is under way, CB9's ULURP committee will begin having conversations on this proposed development. They welcome input from all Crown Heights residents on this matter. The committee will follow up with CB 9 to jointly support their resolution and will ask the full Board to support such a joint resolution when it becomes available.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. Present were Andrea Williams, Thomas Montford, Glinda Andrews, and Anita Roach. The committee discussed programming at the recreation center and group sports activities available for youth. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM at St. John's Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

**Public Safety** – Mr. Mark Thurton, Chair; Mr. Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Atkins chaired the Public Safety Committee meeting which was held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. Present were: Desmond Atkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Frank Hodgson, Myrna Hodgson, Xeerxeema Jordan, Shirley Mondesir, Andrea Ferris, Lorraine Clarke, Deputy Inspector John Buttacavoli, and PO Vidal.

The committee discussed with the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct the uptick in violent crimes in the command on the year. In addition to violent crime, there have been an increase in crimes of opportunity (car thefts from vehicles left running, package thefts, electronics, etc.). Mr. Atkins proposed that the committee vote on requesting the District office to petition to have the original boundaries of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct re-instated to include the entirety of Prospect Heights. The committee voted unanimously to support the request.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:30 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, November 6, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue. Present were: Essie Spivey, Pearlie Mikele, Wallace Alexander, Leola Mills, Charlie Wiggins, Annie Butler Wiggins, Norma Glover, Annabelle Boyd, Ida Golson, Mary E. Williams, Patricia Washington, Dennis Brown, Yvonne Bailey, Mary Hodnett, Frances Langley, Vasti Bentinck, Gilbert Perryman, Loretta Fisher, Xeerxeema Jordan, Vilma Zuniga, Julia Boyd, Andrea Ferris, Gail Muhammad, Regina Kinsey.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad distributed the New York for Seniors Magazine, which highlights various information, events and resources for seniors. Also, PO Kelvin Vidal made a safety presentation, informing the committee about current and ongoing telephone scams. The perpetrators of these scams often impersonate IRS agents during tax season insisting that money is owed. He noted that the Internal Revenue Service will contact tax payers by mail and never by phone. Other fraudsters will claim to be utility companies, immigration agents, and/or police officers, stating that a loved one has been arrested and bail must be posted by gift card. The demand for ransom for a kidnaped family member is becoming more prevalent along with the scam stating that a person's social security number has been used in a fraudulent manner. He advised everyone to be on alert for these kind of calls and to hang up immediately.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments. All are invited to attend.



## **SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)**

The SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee met on Monday, November 4, 2019 at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center. The Committee discussed the following applications:

- A. Renewal application for Bierwax, 556 Vanderbilt Avenue – Wine/beer/cider (rear yard, DJ, recorded music, live music, patron dancing)—Applicant recently approved for upgrade to full license.

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

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

- B. Method of Operations Change (MOO) Applications:

1. Kinanm Lounge, 856 Atlantic Avenue – Full (expanding hours: 6 PM-4AM; and adding security)  
Establishment type: Lounge

The applicant is requesting extended hours. As Kinanm did not submit materials or show for the meeting, and as the establishment has a record of disturbances and violence, the committee voted 14 in favor of not supporting any extended hours at this time. Note: the attorney for the applicant requested that they be invited to the December SLAC meeting.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support he committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lazur and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. MISC, 758 Franklin Avenue – Full (permanently enclosed backyard, recorded music)  
Establishment type: Restaurant

The applicant is requesting an alteration to add an additional 10 tables / 40 seats in an enclosed rear yard that will be built.

The committee voted 11 in favor with 3 opposed to support the MOO with the following stipulations:

- Outdoor space must be fully enclosed
- All windows in enclosure must close by 10 PM

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention

- C. New Applications:

1. Manado’s Jazz Lounge, 942 Atlantic Avenue – Full (live music, DJ, no outdoor space listed)  
Establishment type: Bar/tavern

- i. 56 seats at 13 tables, 7 seats at 1 bar
- ii. Hours of operation: 6 PM -2 AM daily

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Branch-Muhammad and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

2. Bleu Fin Bar and Grill, 633 Nostrand Avenue – Full (recorded music, sidewalk café)  
Establishment type: Seafood restaurant and Bar

Proposed details as follows:

- i. 12 seats at 2 tables, 16 seats at 1 bar
- ii. Hours of operation: Noon to 11 PM Sunday, Noon to 2 AM Monday through Saturday
- iii. Sidewalk Café with 10 seats at 5 tables to operate from Noon to 11 PM daily
- iv. Application is a 500-foot exception

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the stipulation that the sidewalk café close at 10 PM Sunday through Thursday. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. second

3. Ras Plant Based, 739 Franklin Avenue Full (no outdoor space, live jazz, recorded music)  
Establishment type: Restaurant

- i. Ethiopian plant-based cuisine
- ii. 36 seats at 18 tables, 12 seats at 1 bar
- iii. Hours of operation: 10 AM-11 PM Sunday, 11 AM to 11 PM Monday through Thursday, and 11 AM to midnight Friday and Saturday

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the stipulation that front facing windows close at 10 PM daily. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

4. Screamers Pizza CHAMPS JR Inc, 685 Franklin Avenue – Beer/wine/cider (patio/deck, recorded music)  
Establishment type: Restaurant

- i. 27 seats at 13 tables
- ii. Hours of operation Noon to midnight daily
- iii. Lot line front yard usage, does not require sidewalk café with 8 seats to operate from Noon to 11 PM daily

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the condition that the front yard close at 10 PM Sunday through Thursday. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

5. Red Naxela Lounge LLC, 1466 St. John's Place – Full (backyard, recorded music)  
Establishment type: Restaurant

- i. 40 seats at 9 tables, 10 seats at 1 bar
- ii. Hours of operation 3 PM to 2 AM Sunday through Wednesday; 3 PM to 4 AM Thursday through Saturday
- iii. Rear Yard with 12 seats at 6 tables to operate from 3 PM to 10 PM Sunday through Thursday and until 11 PM Friday and Saturday

The committee voted 12 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application with the stipulation that the establishment close at midnight on Sunday, 2 AM Monday through Thursday, and 4 AM Friday and Saturday. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gabriel and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

**Youth and Education** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

Mr. Mensah informed the Board that the Youth and Education Committee did not meet in the month of November. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at the CB 8 district office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue at 7 PM.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is requesting approval of District Council (DC) 37 and the Mayor's Personnel Order 2018/2 for the Pay Plan for Management Employees (PPME) (DC37 and PPME are unions) recently approved collective bargaining agreement wage increases in the amount of 3% for CB 8 staff, Michelle George (District Manager) and Julia Neale (Community Coordinator).

In addition to the 3% collective bargaining salary increase, Ms. Tyus stated that the Executive Committee is recommending an additional 12% merit increase for each staff member in honor of their tireless efforts and the exemplary work they do.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the 3% collective bargaining increase and the 12% merit increase for both Ms. George and Ms. Neale. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mensah carried with a final vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad gave a special thank you to Ms. Neale, who, during the three months Ms. George was out of the office, ensured that all needs of residents were met.

Ms. Tyus thanked the committee chairs for their reports and asked Senator Myrie to say a few words.

## **Senator Zellnor Myrie**

Senator Myrie thanked the Board for its service to the community. He announced that his office is focusing on three priorities at the present time, including Census 2020, transportation issues, and legislation to make it illegal for the police to lie to those being interrogated during interrogation. As far as the Census is concerned, it is important because it dictates how \$72 billion in federal funds are allocated in New York State. Kings County historically has been the most undercounted county *in the nation*. 80% of the census tracts in Brooklyn are undercounted, meaning less money for the borough. His office is going to focus on ensuring that the entire community is properly counted. He anecdoted an article he penned in the NY Daily News pushing for greater funds for Census Outreach.

Additionally, Senator Myrie stated that his office is focused on transportation issues in the community. There are a series of forums he is holding or has held on transportation issues. The last forum was held on bike equity, looking at the relationship of bikes in the community. The next forum will be on bus service. Lastly, the Senator provided disturbing information that New York State still has not outlawed law enforcement personnel being able to lie during an interrogation to coax information from suspects or individuals. He stated that many people wrongfully convicted and imprisoned were done so because they were lied to. Legislation he is proposing would outlaw this practice. For more information on any of the things he spoke about, please contact his office at 718-284-4700.

Ms. Tyus thanked Senator Myrie and invited Assemblywoman Richardson to say a few words.

## **Assemblywoman Diana Richardson**

Assemblywoman Richardson thanked the Board and the community for looking at the cost benefit analysis for the Grand/Pacific Re-zoning proposal. Zoning is a very important issue and if we do not remain alert, will lose the community to developers. The Assemblywoman stated that we must all remain vigilant in watching property and untoward behavior by developers, owners, and speculators. The assemblywoman announced that she is participating in a Thanksgiving dinner and turkey giveaway with Senator Myrie.

Census 2020 is extremely important, and even more-so as Kings County and Central Brooklyn are extremely difficult to count. This is the hardest to count community. Of the \$20 million set aside by the state for Census advertisements, no money has been released yet and the Census is only 3 months away, setting Kings County up for failure. Because the county is so undercounted, we are at risk of losing congressional seats. It is essential that we keep our political representation strong.

Ms. Tyus thanked Assemblywoman Richardson for the information. She stated that she continues to hear from residents in the vicinity of Meat Restaurant located at 123 Kingston Avenue on the corner of Bergen Street complain of the illegal activities of the restaurant. Residents state that they are frustrated from the lack of agency response for the restaurant, which continues to place their garbage in the building on the opposite corner, also owned by them, the former Kingston Lounge located at 120 Kingston Avenue, also at the corner of Bergen Street. The garbage in the abandoned building is a conduit for rodent activity.

After residents brought forward their complaints, Ms. Tyus informed them that the Board is aware of the issue, have met with Assemblywoman Richardson, Councilman Robert Cornegy, and the owner, and will discuss possible solutions with agency representatives. She then opened the floor for public comments.

## **Public Comments**

A representative from Breaking Ground, an organization that does homeless outreach for currently homeless individuals, asked those present that if they see homeless individuals, please call them at 718-360-8024, and they usually respond within an hour.

With no additional business to discuss, Ms. Tyus adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7 PM at Union United Methodist Church located at 121 New York Avenue. All are invited to attend.