

**Community Board 8
Weeksville Gardens Community Center
1640 Pacific Street
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

April 12, 2018

Members Present

Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Helen Coley
Faith Corbett
Dian Duke
James Ellis
Andrea Ferris
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Elijah Gray
Xeerxeema Jordan
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Adam Sachs
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Edison Stewart
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Mark Thurton
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

Glinda Andrews
Deshauna Appleton
Adem Bunkeddeko
Michael Cox
Phu Doung
Fred Frazier
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Stacey Sheffey
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Pedro Zapata
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials Present

Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Elected Officials Reprs

Bella Pori, Assemblyman Mosley
Amanda Robinson, Assemblywoman Wright
Tavia Mapp-Deterich, Assemblywoman Richardson
Rhea Smith, Senator Jesse Hamilton
Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Cumbo
Reginald Belon, Cong. Yvette Clarke
Shakti Robbins, Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Judith Destin, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

CB 8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:10 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She asked Mr. Wayne Bailey, Sergeant at Arms, to remind everyone present of basic housekeeping rules, and also to remind board members to sit in the first few rows so their votes could be heard.

Ms. Granville asked for public comments, elected official representative reports, and announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bella Pori from Assemblyman Walter Mosley's office referenced the killing of Saheed Vassell by the NYPD as a segue to announcing Assemblyman Mosley's recently introduced bill to mandate crisis intervention for police officers. Presently, the NYPD has voluntary crisis training, but it is not mandatory. She stated that the Assemblyman believed that if the officers involved in the shooting had taken the crisis training, they would have been able to diffuse the situation without the use of deadly force.

Also, Ms. Pori announced the Assemblyman's Facebook Live Town Hall meet on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 from 6:30-7:30 PM to discuss the 2018 Enhanced Budget and how it impacts the 57th Assembly District. You will have an opportunity to ask the Assemblyman questions and offer suggestions about the state budget. Follow along only on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/AssemblymanWalterMosley/. For more information, call the Assemblyman's office at 718-596-0100.

Ms. Deborah Young, Executive Director of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) announced two upcoming events. The first is the Annual Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:45 PM at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). Invited speakers include a representative from the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Ms. Stephanie Zinerman, Co-Chair of Civic Engagement for the Brooklyn NAACP.

The second event is a free document shredding event on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at St. Gregory's RC Church located at 991 St. John's Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue). Shred your papers, important documents with vital information, books, etc. For more information, call 718-774-3834 or email info@crowheightsnorth.org. Ms. Young urged people interested in the shredding event to arrive early as the truck filled up relatively quickly last year.

Ms. Tavia Mapp-Deterich from Assemblywoman Diana Richardson's office announced that the Assemblywoman is hosting an overdose prevention and intervention seminar on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 10 AM at East Flatbush Village, Inc., 309 Clarkson Avenue. Free naxolone, a nasal spray that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose will be given out. Also, please join Assemblywoman Richardson every 4th Saturday of the month (next meeting: April 28, 2018) from 2 to 4 PM to discuss issues in the community and create solutions to many of our community's problems. All meetings are held at MS 61, 400 Empire Blvd. the discussion is still on the Vital Brooklyn proposal. For more information, contact the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105.

Ms. Tricia Ramcharit from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) stated that the CCRB is an oversight agency of the NYPD. The CCRB is responsible for investigating, and in some cases providing mediation between a civilian that filed a complaint of misconduct and police

officers. The agency investigates allegations of force, abuse of authority, offensive language and other situations where people feel they were made uncomfortable or abused. Police officers play an important role in the community. They are everywhere most civilians do not want to be. Under those rules, a police officer can use only the amount of force necessary to overcome resistance. Abuse of authority refers to stop, question, and frisk. A stop and frisk without sufficient reason is cause for an investigation. Not every encounter should result in a frisk. A stop should only result in a frisk when there is sufficient cause to believe the person has a weapon. CCRB encourages civilians not to engage a police officer. Remain calm, cool, and collected and allow the CCRB to investigate your complaint. Do everything in your power to deescalate the situation. Police officers must have their name, rank, shield number, and command visible. If it is not clearly visible, you can ask the officer to identify themselves. If they refuse, that is something the CCRB can investigate. She announced that should you not want to mediate and discuss the negative interaction with the officer you have filed a complaint against, the agency has an Administrative Prosecution Unit that is responsible for prosecuting officers found guilty of misconduct.

There will be a Town Hall meeting at Brooklyn College on May 9, 2018 Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm at Brooklyn College Student Center, Gold Room, Sixth Floor, 2705 Campus Road. This town hall style meeting is intended to open a dialogue with community leaders and residents of Brooklyn in order to better understand police-community relations in the borough. It is a forum for the community to voice their concerns, offer insights, and share experiences with policing and police-community relations in the neighborhood.

Ms. Oton asked Ms. Ramcharit when the CCRB is going to have an event in the neighborhoods that have actual complaints, referencing the recent shooting of Saheed Vassell. She was informed that the agency chooses town hall locations by looking at the precincts that have the most complaints.

Ms. Rhea Smith from Senator Jesse Hamilton's office announced that the Senator has a Housing Walk in Clinic. Brooklyn Housing and Family Services of Greater New York has partnered with Senator Hamilton to offer free housing services clinics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 1 PM, and Thursdays from 1:30 to 5:30 PM at Senator Hamilton's office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn. Walk-in Clinics will provide assistance with landlord harassment, SCRIE and DRIE applications, lease renewals, unlawful rent increases, and other housing related issues. Appointments are required. Please call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700 to schedule an appointment.

Ms. Smith also announced that the Senator will host a Housing Assistance and Tax Lien Workshop on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 5:30 to 8 PM, at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 1208 St. John's Place (between Albany and Troy Avenues). Each year, the Dept. of Finance (DOF) sells tax liens. If your property has unpaid debt that qualifies for a lien sale, DOF can sell your lien debt to an authorized buyer, putting you at risk of losing your home. Fortunately, DOF is holding an outreach event to provide owners with one-on-one assistance with their lien sale questions and issues, and can assist you in setting up a payment plan for your debt to remove your property from the lien sale list.

Ms. Judith Destin from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office announced that the DA's summer high school internship program application is now open. It is a 5 week program from July 9th to August 10th. The deadline is fast approaching, but the DA has internship programs year round. Also, if you are having block cleanups or any summer projects,

the DA's office can assist you with obtaining additional assistance, as there are people available that are required to perform community service. The office requires three weeks' notice for the request to go through. It is a very simple form to complete. Also, representatives from the office are available to set up a table at any upcoming events. For more information on any of the announcements made, please call 718-250-2580.

Ms. Kim Robinson from Councilwoman Alicka Amprey-Samuel's office stated that she was representing both Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel and Assemblywoman Latrice Walker. Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel offers free immigration services at the Councilwoman's office at 400 Rockaway Avenue. Also, Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel passed her first city council resolution to allow sexual harassment claims to be done online instead of victims having to go through human resources (HR). She stated that this legislation is important and very necessary because often the stigma of reporting via HR puts a strain on those reporting workplace harassment. By being able to file complaints online, while not necessarily anonymity, complainants will have a modicum of privacy without having the entire office see them make the complaint. The complaint will now remain private.

She also stated that the Assemblywoman's next advisory board meeting will be on April 20th at 10 AM at 400 Rockaway Avenue. The date of the State of the District address will be on May 17th with additional information to be announced at a later date. Finally, she announced that the Assembly fully funded Raise the Age legislation.

Ms. Arna Lipkind from Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo's office stated that it is a pleasure to be serving CB8 again. She announced that the Council is in the midst of the participatory budgeting vote. There are several locations where constituents can vote on which projects they want to see funded. This year's voting has surpassed the last two years' total numbers of votes. To give residents an idea of what people have submitted for funding, Ms. Lipkind listed a number of the projects seeking funding. Unfortunately, CB8 did not have any projects make the final round. Additionally, the Councilwoman has a Mobile Legal Van on Mondays that provides free legal services. Finally, Councilwoman Combo sponsored legislation that would mandate employers to provide annual anti-harassment training.

Mr. Reginald Belon from Congresswoman Clarke's office distributed the Congresswoman's newsletter and stated that she is fighting for constituents dealing with US Post Office issues. He stated that she sent a letter to the Post Master General in Washington DC demanding a meeting with him and the Brooklyn Post Master General to address the growing list of concerns and complaints. He announced that the Post Office has a governing board that has been vacant for 6 years. The President has submitted names of individuals to fill the vacancy, but the Senate has yet to confirm anyone. Please send any post office related complaints to either the community board office (the form can be found on their website) or to the Congresswoman's office at reginald.belon@mail.house.gov or call 718- 287-1142.

Also, Mr. Belon announced Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is pleased to announce that submissions are now being accepted for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition through May 2, 2018. Accepted work by students are paintings, drawings, pastels, charcoal, mixed media, prints, collages, computer generated art, and photographs. All entries must meet the following criteria:

- Two dimensional
- No larger than 26 inches wide by 26 inches tall by 4 inches thick and less than 15 pounds
- Work must be original in concept, design, and execution

For more information, please visit www.clarke.house.gov/services/art-competition or contact him at reginald.belon@mail.house.gov or 718-287-1142. The winning artwork will be displayed in the halls of the US Capitol in Washington DC.

Mr. Greg Todd announced that Earth Day is April 22nd. The Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board will have a panel discussion on April 25th at Boro Hall to discuss how the city can achieve zero waste going to the landfill by the year 2030.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and comments and invited Senator Velmanette Montgomery to say a few words.

SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY – 25th Senatorial District

Senator Montgomery, commenting on the Mayor's Congestion Plan that includes the Clear Curb Initiative, stated that she does not think the city took into account the impact the Clear Curb initiative would have on small businesses when the plan was created. She queried, what is New York City without small businesses? She stated that she would support CB 8 in removing Flatbush Avenue from the initiative if we asked her to.

She announced that this coming Monday will be the first time in many years that the Senate would be meeting as a total democratic conference with the exception of one elected Democrat that has elected to sit with Republicans. She stated that she is hopeful and cautiously optimistic that there will be success in terms of budgeting for Downstate New Yorkers.

Senator Montgomery thanked Ms. Tyus and the Crown Heights North Association for bringing the issue of Historic Tax Credits to her attention. She stated that the Senate was able to add it to the budget and fund its preservation. The Senator announced that she is fully backing the school-based health clinics initiatives, where full clinics are located in schools for students in that school to obtain healthcare free of charge, regardless of immigration status. It is a very treasured program because of its many upsides. There is a full slate of professionals employed by the clinics to provide physical and mental health care as needed.

The Senator stated that she was pleased to announce that YouthBuild, the program that operated DREAMS YouthBuild in CB8 on St. John's Place, came to Albany in large numbers and via their presence, the legislature increased the funding for YouthBuild programs from 300k to 600k. Initially, she stated that she desired more funding, at least one million dollars, but 600k is a good start for a program that serves so many underprivileged individuals and helps them get on the track to success and financial independence. She stated that she recently introduced a bill that would establish YouthBuild as a program within the NYS Dept. of Labor so that every year there would be funding for the program, that rescues and puts young people into a pipeline for success for the rest of their lives.

The Senator distributed Census 2020 information, asking everyone to talk to their friends and neighbors about it. It is extremely important that people complete their forms. New York, especially New York City, continues to lose congressional seats because we are undercounted in the Census. As a result, she stated that she and many fellow legislators decided this year that they would talk more about the census to get more people involved and participate in the count. Unfortunately, it has already been decided by the President that many underserved populations

would not be discussed on this year's census forms, continuing to make them underserved populations because there will not be an adequate count by which to earmark funding.

Senator Montgomery stated that she spent much of the day at a school in Bed Stuy that used to be the old Boys High School at 832 Marcy Avenue that is now a building that houses several smaller schools. Three of the schools or programs are special programs for students that cannot find homes in other schools. There is a school for cognitively challenged people and two schools that are transfer schools, designed for 17 and 18 year old students that do not have enough credits to be on track for graduation before aging out. These particular students are on the potential track to drop out and lead a life of failure. The transfer schools are designed for these students to help them succeed. Unfortunately, the Dept. of Education has decided to combine the two schools into one despite their differences and co-locate another school in the space that will be vacated once the schools are merged. The students of both of these schools have stated that they finally feel safe, comfortable in the educational system, and like they are on their way to success. Senator Montgomery has stated that she is preparing to "battle the DOE" so they will not merge the two schools and take the program away from the kids. On April 25th, there will be a meeting with the Panel for Public Education Policy. Please call her office at (718) 643-6140 for more information. We have to fight for our kids. If we don't stand up for them, they will go down the path of failure.

Ms. Granville thanked Senator Montgomery for the information and asked for a report from the Dept. of Health on the Health Grading System.

NYC DEPT. OF HEALTH – Ms. Kerri Crayne, Special Projects Director; and Ms. Magda Desdunes, Omsbudsperson

Ms. Crayne stated that the Bureau of Food Safety (BFS) inspects all food service facilities to check that all necessary food safety requirements are being met. She asked Ms. Desdunes to give the Board additional information on the process.

Ms. Desdunes announced that the BFS makes sure that food items are kept at the correct temperature, meaning that there are adequate hot and cold food holding units, there are adequate utensil washing facilities, hand washing facilities, proper food storage, check for evidence of vermin activity, check that waste lines are covered (especially those above food services), and even checks toilet facilities. The inspection process by the BFS is very thorough. To assist food service providers with understanding the laws and requirements, they provide a consultative inspection program, which is basically a mock inspection. The proprietor will get a report and recommendation(s) on how to address any violation(s) found during the mock inspection, which mimics an actual inspection. BFS consultants tell owners not to tell employees that the mock inspection is coming so it can feel like an actual inspection and better prepare everyone for what they need to know.

BFS has a customer service office that is open Monday thru Friday. Hours are Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM. DOH wants food operators to feel at ease with contacting DOH about inspections, recommendations on equipment, and other concerns or issues they have. As a result, DOH attempts to provide as much information as possible and make it easy to access.

DOH is hosting a Food Safety Workshop, Practicing "A" Grade Food Safety for business owners in the food and drink industry. An "A" grade means more business, fewer fines, less frequent

inspections, and a safer dining experience for customers. The workshop will assist business owners and their staff with learning how to achieve and maintain the highest food safety standards and receive an inspection history report for your establishment. The Brooklyn workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 from 1:30 PM to 4 PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Founders Hall, Downtown Brooklyn. A workshop will be held in Manhattan on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 from 1:30 PM to 4 PM at David Dinkins Manhattan Municipal Building located at 1 Centre Street in the Mezzanine.

To register, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/FSWorkshops. For more information, call 646-632-6001. Other city agencies will be in attendance as well for questions and answers. These agencies include OATH, Small business Services, DEP, and the FDNY.

DOH offers educational workshops for groups of restaurant owners. Representatives will come out and discuss different topics that restaurant operators want or need information on. They seek at least 10 restaurants or more to participate in each workshop. Additionally, there are multiple books available to help individuals properly run their businesses. There is an online booklet to help people determine how points are calculated to give the rating.

Mr. Thurton asked if restaurants are given any notice of a regular inspection. He was informed that all inspections are surprise inspections without notice. Also, every restaurant is required to have a manager with a food handling license on duty at all times. To obtain the food handlers license, you have to take a certification course. The test is \$25 if you take the course online, but if you go to the physical workshop, it will cost more.

Responding to a community member's question about letter grading, Ms. Desdunes informed the Board that letter grading started in 2010 for bars and restaurants. 90% of those graded have an "A" rating. Places not subject to grading are temporary service establishments, schools, charitable organizations, and not for profit food organizations. Mobile food vendors will start being graded in July. On the initial inspection, if the establishment gets 0-13 points, they will get "A" grade and another inspection will not be performed for another 11 to 13 months as the Department inspects usually once a year. If the business does not get an A on the first inspection, they will get a re-inspection within 8 days. The grade they get on the re-inspection is the grade that must be posted. Additional inspections for non A graded establishments get done sooner, usually within 8 to 10 months. 14 to 27 points is a "B" grade and 28+ points is a "C" grade. If they get a C, the inspection cycle will start over in 5 months or so. The initial inspection would be perceived as what actually goes on in the restaurant on a day to day basis.

Establishments have the opportunity to contest their grade. In this instance, a "Grade Pending" card can be posted if they did not get the A grade. If the operator contests, they post the grade pending card, and their contest hearing occurs 21 days after the initial inspection. When the hearing is completed, if no violations are dismissed, whatever grade was given during the inspection prior to the contest is what has to be posted. If the points are reduced, the establishment will get a new grade that must be posted.

Ms. Desdunes cautioned everyone that even though an establishment has a "C" grade, as a consumer, you do not know what the points are for. The DOH's BFS will not allow any establishment to remain open if it is considered unsafe to eat at it. Points are given for any number of things, and one incorrect piece of equipment could lead to you getting an automatic "C" grade even if everything else is up to code. An example of this could be an improper type of sink as having the wrong sink can accrue 28 points. She stated that BFS recently just began

requiring a 3 compartment sink that was not a requirement last year but is worth 28 points if you do not have one.

Ms. Crayne announced that DOH has a free app to help consumers understand grading and what was found during an inspection. This is all public information. The app is called NYC Health Ratings and can be downloaded from the app store for either android or iPhone.

Mr. Ellis asked if food halls are inspected, and if the operation as a whole is inspected, or just the individual vendors. He was informed that for food halls, if the vendors are sharing a commissary, the operator of the food space is responsible and will be inspected. If they do not share a commissary, the individual operators are inspected. Mr. Ellis also questioned the seeming inconsistency of the knowledge and criteria followed by inspectors, and asked what DOH is doing to train and re-train inspectors so that all are on a consistent level, thus ensuring that consumers have the confidence to know that all food service establishments are inspected equally. Ms. Desdunes informed him that each inspector is different and sees different things on any given day, which leads to different inspection results day to day, but all of them receive the same training. When re-inspections are done, it is not going to be done by the same inspector in all likelihood. Consequently, what is seen one day might not be seen on the re-inspection for myriad reasons: the problem could have been corrected before the re-inspection, was only temporary, or not noticed by the new inspector because something different catches their eye. DOH also does supervisory inspections where an inspector inspects an establishment and a supervisor comes behind them to inspect as well to make sure that the same things are seen. There are occasions where the supervisor might not see the violation if it has already been corrected by the time of the supervisory inspection. The same issues do not exist on the same day all the time in every establishment. Most establishments will take advantage of the self-inspection worksheet that is available to correct any issues immediately.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Desdunes and Ms. Crayne for the very informative information and asked Capt. Abraham Sanabria from the 77th Precinct to say a few words.

77TH PRECINCT – Captain Abraham Sanabria, Executive Officer

Capt. Sanabria informed the Board that the new Commanding Officer of the 77th is Deputy Inspector Buttacavoli; DI Buttacavoli intended to attend the meeting to introduce himself to the community, but due to work obligations was unable to. However, he is planning on attending the next meeting. Capt. Sanabria acknowledged the NCO officers present from Sectors C and D, the central and eastern portions of the precinct's boundaries. He then asked PO Green from Community Affairs to give the community the precinct's social media information.

PO Green asked the community to follow the 77th on social media as there is a lot of information distributed daily. Follow the 77th on Facebook at facebook.com and search for NYPD 77th Precinct. The Twitter handle is @nypd77thpct. Also, PO Green announced that with summer arriving, please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to plan events.

Ms. Granville thanked Capt. Sanabria and PO Green for the information and encouraged everyone to use social media to follow the precinct. She then asked for roll call.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – Mr. Staton made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and

carried unanimously. Please note: one correction was emailed to the District office and the final, corrected version of the minutes were uploaded to the CB 8 website.

CORRESPONDENCE – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Chair Oton announced that the Economic Development Committee is pleased to present its Job Training Fair on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10 AM to 1 PM and Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 6 PM to 9 PM. The fair will be held at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places), Brooklyn. She encouraged everyone to get the training they need for the job they want and increase their job skills, income, or gain the knowledge needed to change careers to a field you actually want to be in.

Register here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/job-training-fair-by-community-board-8s-economic-development-committee-tickets-44838450011>.

There will not be an Economic Development Committee meeting in May because of the Training Fair. Committee members are encouraged to volunteer on one of the days to have their attendance recorded for the month.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Education and Youth Committee met on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Sharon Wedderburn, Kwasi Mensah, Yves Vilus, Laurel Dagrosa, Xeerxeema Jordan, Pamela Harmon, Adjua Starks, Morenike Lambert, Tarves Lord, and Yahya Raji.

The committee continued discussing its upcoming Youth Fair, The Me in We, on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at P.S. 316, 750 Classon Avenue (between Sterling and Park Places), Brooklyn. Discussion topics will include: 10 Things EVERY Youth Should Know; Financial Literacy; Avoiding Credit Card Abuse; Job/Career Readiness; Civic Education (Voter Registration); Culinary Arts; Adult Education; How to AVOID the Criminal Justice System; Dressing for Success; and Know Your Educational Rights (Adelaide Sanford Institute).

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, April 2, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Kwasi Mensah and Zara Watkins.

The committee discussed its two upcoming events. The first is the Urban Agriculture Community Gathering on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 1 to 3 PM at Walt L. Shamel Community Garden, 1095 Dean Street (near Rogers Avenue), Brooklyn. In the event of rain, the event will be held at the Fort Green Grant Square Senior Center located at 19 Rogers Avenue. For further information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah at bc8healthfair@gmail.com.

The second is the its 3rd Annual Health Fair: From Survive to Thrive on Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 11 AM to 3 PM at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place (corner of Washington Avenue), Brooklyn. Meet and hear the experts on: Mental Health; Elder Care; Nutrition; Chi Kung; Acupuncture; Wills & Trusts; Physical Fitness; Health Screenings; Community Supported Agriculture; and much more.

Mr. Mensah gave basic information on THRIVE NYC, where people are trained to help with mental illness crises. Also, on April 14th from 2 PM to 5 PM at 500 8th Avenue in Manhattan, there will be a women's empowerment and self-defense class. Email info@litesisters.org for more information. Finally, on April 28th, it is World Tai Chi Day at Bryant Park.

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

HOUSING (ADVOCACY) – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

LAND USE – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use committee met on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In absence of the Chair, the meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Nizjoni Granville and Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon. Also present were: James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Danae Oratowski, Katharine Perko, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Gib Veconi, Princess Benn-James, Stacey Sheffey, Robert Puca, and Faith Corbett.

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

1. Discussion of LPC Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 1260 Bergen Street

- Exterior alteration of front and side facades.
- Installation of new bronze and glass awning.
- Installation of new discreet exterior light fixtures.
- Replacement of solid metal front doors with single glass pane metal frame doors.
- Replacement of existing roll-down security gates.
- Installation of new rooftop HVAC unit.
- Construction of barrier free access ramps at the front entrance and secondary exit.

- Installation of new non-illuminated signage lettering ("Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses") and a square logo sign reading "JW.ORG" painted blue.

Committee members expressed concern about the increased height of the proposed new façade, as well as the perception of increased mass based upon the stone veneer panels planned to be used. Upon motion made by Mr. Veconi and seconded by Mr. Puca, it was unanimously resolved that the Committee recommend support for the application, conditioned upon the following:

- 1) The height of the proposed new façade will not be greater than the height of the existing façade at its highest step. If additional height is required to meet building code or OSHA regulations, a rail may be used at the top of the cornice.
- 2) LPC staff continue to work with the applicants to select finish materials that mitigate the increased bulk of the new façade, and harmonize with the surrounding contributing buildings.
- 3) The applicant continues to maintain a planted areaway in front of the property.

The applicant submitted revised plans to the District Office on Tuesday showing that plantings were added back to the areaway, but did not reflect that they reduced the height of the parapet as was requested. The Committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to support the application.

Ms. Weatherspoon announced that she had a pre-discussion meeting with the architect prior to the start of the general meeting. She announced that as requested by the committee, they did reduce the height of the parapet. The new proposed height is 16'8", a reduction of 17 inches. The final plans showing the height reduction is available (the architect and applicant showed the revised drawings to those interested) and will be sent to the District office.

Ms. Tyus stated that with the revised presentation, she assumed the motion before the full board would be revised as well. Mr. Ellis then made a motion to support committee's recommendation of support with the conditions that the height not exceed what has been presented at the general meeting, and also that the plantings remain. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

LIVABLE STREETS – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair; Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Vice Chair

The Livable Streets Committee met on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon. Also present were: Desmond Atkins, Isaac Blasenstein, Holly Fuchs, Elijah Gray, Xeerxeema Jordan, Regina Kinsey; Frances Langley, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Deborah Young, Anthony Carnevale, Asli Peut, Tim Bishop, Johanna Salas, Kristina Anderson, Darnelle Champagne, Elaine Bowen, Jonathan Ingno, and Eugene Mellayou.

The committee discussed its goals and projects, and created small groups of individuals to work on each goal or project.

The committee also heard concerns from Mr. James Ellis, Executive Director of the North Flatbush BID regarding the Mayor's Congestion Plan (Clear Curb Initiative) along Flatbush Avenue, which would restrict curbside parking and loading on both sides of Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Tillary Street during peak hours (7-10am and 4-7pm).

The issues discussed were:

- a portal link is being made available for people to voice their concerns
- a review of the impact of the plan will be conducted in 2 months
- Monday, April 2nd, DOT will start enforcement

A few comments about the plan were made:

- plan is not feasible
- DOT did not enforce the current rules
- Why implement the same plan on both sides of the street? North bound traffic is heavy in the morning and South bound early evening. Why not consider the restriction in concert with flow of traffic congestion?
- How can an accurate assessment on a study of traffic congestion on Flatbush Ave be obtained, when major construction is in progress in the targeted area?

At the general meeting, Mr. Witherwax thanked Ms. Weatherspoon for chairing the meeting and discussing the issue. He stated that there was a meeting earlier in the day with the NFBID, the Borough President, Dept. of Transportation, and the community regarding the issue. There are a lot of projects taking place on Flatbush Avenue at this time for this program to be in effect. There is a water main reconstruction project, the reconstruction of the triangles, addition of neckdowns in certain locations, etc. Congestion comes from too many cars and too little street space, and this program is designed to increase the amount of street, which would cause more traffic invariably. The primary concern of the committee is the impact of the lack of parking on small businesses as 7-10 AM is when most businesses get their deliveries, and between 4-7 PM, the community is shopping and businesses are delivering to customers. Removal of parking creates an undue burden on small businesses. Also, he stated that he does not believe that raising the flow of traffic through Community Board 8 serves in the best interest of our community.

As there was no official recommendation from the Livable Streets committee due to a lack of a quorum, he announced that the Executive Committee, however, did discuss the possibility of bringing a motion before the Board to rescind this program in our community and for the Mayor's office and DOT to work with the NFBID and community to come up with a better plan.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad stated that by diverting traffic from Flatbush Avenue, this initiative is bringing congestion issues to people on side streets.

After additional discussion, which included some key points for the District Office to incorporate into the letter to the Mayor's office, Mr. Witherwax made a motion that the Board request the Mayor's Office to rescind the 6 month pilot program of the Clear Curbs Initiative under the Mayor's Congestion Plan in CB 8 and work with the NFBID on alternatives to solve the issues along Flatbush Avenue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn. Mr. Mensah stated that with the motion made the way it is, there is no guarantee that the city will not go from pilot program to full program. Mr. Witherwax stated that verbiage would be put into the letter stating that neither the pilot program nor a full implementation would work for us. The motion carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, with 1 recusal.

PARKS – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. Present were: Lawrence Brown, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Mark Thurton, Vilma Zuniga, Robyn Berland, Greg Todd, Sofia Balog, Rebecca Mason, Terry Narando, Chris Uandoli, Thomas Montford, Glinda Andrews, Delancey Nelson, and Kelvin Lomax.

The committee’s meeting was designated as a scope meeting for the Parks Department to obtain suggestions on the reconstruction of the fitness center at St. John’s Park. Councilman Cornegy allocated funds for the project.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at St. John’s Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, March 26, 2018 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Mark Thurton, Xeerxeema Jordan, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Ryan Cagle, Shalawn Langhorne, Shirley Mondesir, Lorraine Clarke, Tarves Lord, Det. Fuchs, and Deputy Inspector Buttacavoli of the 77th Precinct.

The committee discussed some of the ongoing concerns in the District. These concerns include:

- Pot smoking in the skate park in Brower Park
- Park Enforcement issues regarding dogs off leash, people hanging out late after dusk, etc.
- Violence near the shelters, specifically the Bedford-Atlantic Shelter.
- Request for cameras throughout the neighborhood.

Lastly, the committee discussed and brainstormed ideas for its upcoming Public Safety Conference. This conference will provide support and resources and how one can protect themselves, their family, and their community. It will expand to more than just police and fire issues, but also include public safety issues concerning the Dept. of Buildings, the District Attorney’s office, the Dept. of Homeless, etc. The conference will take place in late summer or early fall.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

SENIORS – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, also present were: Essie Spivey, Faye Jones, Mary Hodnett, Norma Glover, Yvonne Bailey, Linda Ferrette, Annabelle Boyd, Wallace Alexander, Leola Mills, Tanvia Mapp-Peterville, Dennis Brown, Mark Rybakov, Regina Kinsey, Julia Boyd, Edison Stewart, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Vilma Zuniga.

The committee heard a presentation by Mr. Mark Rybakov, Community Engagement Advisor from Independence Care System (ICS). ICS provides managed long term care to people who are disabled and or chronically ill and that would prefer to remain in their homes as opposed to a

nursing facility. They offer home care and adult day care services, which are set up through a categorized plan. Mr. Rybakov noted that ICS takes an on-hand approach with the clients by allowing access to their Specialized Senior Adult Services. The services include a 24hr on-call nurse, an evaluation of mobility needs, assistance in taking the proper medications at the proper intervals, and physical strength building for those who may be frail and at risk of falling. The program is Medicaid based and for those who don't have or don't qualify for it, they would have to set up a Pooled Trust Account. The account allows the client to keep their excess monthly income in an account to pay their bills, and this money will not be considered part of the overall income. Mr. Rybakov stated that their experienced staff will assist with the pooling and certification process. Mr. Rybakov can be reached at 646-653-6442, for further questions.

Additionally, Ms. Mapp- Peterville discussed the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, and advised the committee that the assembly office assists seniors with questions about the program and offers assistance with filling out the forms.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad stated that the Seniors Committee is full of fun activities. At the April meeting, the committee discussed the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and seniors were asked to reminisce on what they were doing and where they were when they heard the news. The feedback received was interesting. At the May meeting, those in attendance will learn how to pickle vegetables and fruit.

The next Seniors Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All are invited to attend.

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

The SLAC committee met on Monday, April 2, 2018 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Present were: Gail Branch-Muhammad, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Danae Oratowski, Bryan Saunders, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Renewals:

- a. Aita Trattoria, 798A Franklin Avenue (Lincoln/Eastern Pkwy) – Full
- b. Underhill Café and Grill, 760 Dean Street (corner Underhill) – Beer/Wine/Cider
- c. Super Power, 722 Nostrand Avenue (corner Prospect) – Full (rear yard)
- d. Look by Plant Love House, 622 Washington Avenue (Pacific/Dean) – Wine/Beer/Cider

The committee voted to support all four renewals and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

2. Unenclosed Sidewalk Café Application for Sofreh, 75 St. Marks Avenue (Flatbush/Carlton) – Full license

- i. 4 tables with 16 seats
- ii. Sun: 10 AM-10 PM, Mon-Thu 11 AM-11 PM, Fri-Sat 10 AM-11 PM

The committee voted 12 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the application with hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Gibbs asked if the reorganization of the sidewalks on Flatbush Avenue had been taken into consideration when discussing this application. She was informed that the building is one house away from Flatbush Avenue and not specifically on the corner of Flatbush. The planters project will not be an issue for this café.

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 4 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and stated that she was happy to see so many new people at the meetings, and encouraged their continued participation with the Board. She repeated that it is very difficult for 50 people to represent 100k residents. Also, to get up to date information, make sure the District office has your contact information to add you to the mailing list. She encouraged them to visit our website at www.brooklyncb8.org for a list of committees and participate on one of their choosing.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 7 PM at Union United Methodist Church located at 121 New York Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Guests

Lula Staton
Carolyn Johnson
Benjaporn Chua
Claire Sprouse
Sarah Lazur
Tricia Ramcharit
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Ted Petroulas
Katharine Perko
B. Kanellos
Cherie Washington
Noah Potter
Sophia Luiu
N. Sarcie
Shirley Mondesir
Lynn Cave
Ime Nelson
Valerie Nero-Reid
Dr. Erogers Hykes