

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

April 13, 2023

Members Present

Lisa Atkinson
Princess Benn-James
Jacques Brunvil
Robert Callahan
Dian Duke
Andrea Ferris
Michael Francoeur
Drew Gabriel
Colin Jakubczyk
Xeerxeema Jordan
Frances Langley
Dr. Sarah Lazur
Mimi Mitchell
Gail Muhammad
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Yahya Raji
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Nicole Tetreault
Mark Thurton
Gib Veconi
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

City Agency Representatives

Venus Scantlebury, CCRB
Denise Hubbard, DEP
Karen Ellis, DEP
Matthew O'Malley, SBS

CB8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Members Absent/Excused

Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Julia Boyd
Marva Brown-Henry
Nora Daniel
Fred Frazier
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Kwasi Mensah
Keiona Morse
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Celene Rosado
Zahra Thani
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Kimberly Watson
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials Present

Honorable Stefani Zinerman, 57th Assembly District

Elected Official Representatives

Orlando Ross, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke
Ana Garcia, Councilmember Crystal Hudson
Kristen Rouse, Congressman Dan Goldman
Deanna Foote, Boro President Antonio Reynoso
Raul Rothblatt, Assemblyman Brian Cunningham
Camille Barbin, Senator Zellnor Myrie
Casey Peterson, Councilmember Crystal Hudson
Arlean Gillin, Councilmember Chi Osse
Hercules Reid, Mayor's Office CAU

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:25 pm by Chairperson Weatherspoon. She welcomed everyone to the April meeting, and invited Karen Ellis from the Department of Environmental Protection to say a few words on the Water and Sewer Amnesty program.

NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection – Ms. Karen Ellis, Director of Community Outreach for Bureau of Public Affairs and Ms. Denise Hubbard, Brooklyn Coordinator for Bureau of Public Affairs, Office of Community Affairs

Ms. Ellis and Ms. Hubbard both thanked CB8 for allowing the agency to speak to the Board about DEP's once-in-a-lifetime water and sewer amnesty program. In January, Mayor Adams launched a first-ever amnesty program to save New Yorkers over \$150 million in interest fees when they pay their water bill late. Unfortunately, from February when the amnesty program began to current day, not enough people with outstanding water bills are taking advantage of the program which will close at the end of the month.

Ms. Ellis informed the Board that delinquent water bills are those owing over \$1000. DEP has attempted to perform extensive outreach to get property owners to sign up for the amnesty program. If you pay the principal amount owed or even sign up for a payment plan, the amnesty program offers a 1:1 ratio of forgiveness for the amount of interest waived to amount of principal balance paid. For instance, if you pay 100% of the principal balance, 100% of interest and penalties are waived. If you sign up for a payment plan, if you pay 50% of the principal balance, 50% of the interest and fees will be waived.

Additionally, New York State has a low-income water assistance program, and is giving away \$5,000 to homeowners. DEP will match any money received if you are eligible for this program. Property owners, businesses, daycares, private schools, and so many more are eligible for this. The only requirement is that you have an outstanding water bill of over \$1,000. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the amnesty program, please contact them at 718-595-7000.

After a brief question and answer period, Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Ellis and Ms. Hubbard for the information and encouraged everyone to apply for amnesty if they need it. She then welcomed Mr. Gregory Anderson, CEO of Bridge Street Development Corporation and invited him to say a few words.

Bridge Street Development Corporation –Mr. Gregory Anderson, CEO and Mr. Connor Hassett, Community Outreach Coordinator - Economic Development

Mr. Anderson thanked Chairperson Weatherspoon for the opportunity to address the Board. He stated that Bridge Street Development Corp. was founded in 1995 to provide civic and economic opportunities to low-income residents in Central Brooklyn. All of the work done at Bridge Street is about partnerships and collaborations, and over the past three years, the organization helped to establish new or revitalized commercial merchants' associations. Some of their successes in District 8 include a newly formed Franklin Avenue Merchants Association, and revitalized Utica, Nostrand, and Kingston Avenue associations.

Mr. Anderson invited Mr. Hassett to speak on the recently concluded Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA) for District 8. Mr. Hassett thanked the Board for assisting Bridge Street in

obtaining valuable survey responses. He stated that he has been working closely with the CB8 Economic Development Committee and committee Chair, Brian Saunders, for the last 6 months. Ongoing conversations in the community are still being held, and additional feedback is needed. The recently concluded CDNA is just one part of year one actions in a three-year process. Mr. Hassett presented to the Board some of the observations made that now require community feedback to work on the next two years of the project. CDNA's are federally funded with the end goal of commercial revitalization, and he stated that he looks forward to working with the community on revitalizing CB8's under-funded commercial corridors.

Some of the major points Mr. Hassett explained are:

- Five major under-invested in corridors along Atlantic, Franklin, Nostrand, Kingston, and Utica Avenues
- Key takeaways are that these corridors are home to a number of historic minority owned businesses
- All corridors struggle with illegal dumping and trash and fall victim to shifting political districts and a lack of local development corporations that impede efforts for commercial revitalization.
- 14% vacancy rate, which is higher than the city average of about 10%. Of the 980 businesses inventories, beauty, nail salons, and barber shops are the top type of business, the number skewed by the high quantity of such facilities on Utica Avenue. Supermarkets and grocery stores (outside of bodegas and smoke shops) make up about 3% of spaces.
- Streetscape observations caused the storefront ratings to drop. Issues of concern for respondents were around pedestrian safety and trash. Public safety, especially at night, was another high area of concern.

From the top takeaways, Mr. Hassett stated that over the next phase of the CDNA, Bridge Street needs and wants to focus on safety, brighter streets, and more trash pickup. Additionally, specialty grocery stores like butchers shops and meat markets were the most requested in the surveys, so the hope is to be able to recruit them.

After a brief question and answer period, Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hassett for the update, and invited Kim Robinson to say a few words on behalf of Calvary.

Calvary Community Church – Ms. Kim Robinson

On behalf of Pastor Henry, Ms. Robinson welcomed everyone to Calvary and stated that it is great to be able to host CB8 meetings after three very long years. She announced that Calvary will be hosting a Mammogram Bus on June 3rd and a good turnout is desired. The bus will be in the church parking lot offering free and no co-pay mammograms to women ages 40 and up.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Robinson and invited representatives from city agencies to say a few words.

Ms. Venus Scantlebury from the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board introduced herself as the Brooklyn Outreach Coordinator. She explained the role of the CCRB as an independent agency investigating allegations of police misconduct, racial profiling, and bias-based policing. She informed the Board that the CCRB cannot function as intended if the community does not report instances. She stated that even if you are not sure something is an offense, please still report it so that it can be investigated properly. Also, if you see something that alludes to misconduct on social media, please send it along and the agency can self-initiate an investigation. Finally, there is an upcoming CCRB Board meeting on May 10th at 6:30 p.m. at Restoration Plaza. It is a great opportunity to meet with the executive board and speak with members. Investigators will be on-site to help with complaints.

Ms. Mitchell asked what would happen if you don't have a badge number or name and was informed that they can get roll call, respondent calls, etc. Ms. Taitt-Hall asked how far back the agency can investigate and was informed that there is a 18-month statute of limitations.

Mr. Hercules Reid introduced himself as the new Brooklyn Borough Director at the Mayor's Office Community Assistance Unit and the new liaison for the board. The Summer Youth Employment Program application deadline is tomorrow, April 14th. SYEP is a great opportunity for businesses to hire young people between the ages of 16-24 for the summer. Free tax prep is available for constituents that still have not filed their taxes. Mr. Reid stated that Mayor Adams fought to get more child tax credits for city residents.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the agency representatives for the information and invited Ms. Casey Peterson from Hester Street to say a few words.

Hester Street Organization – Ms. Casey Peterson, Senior Project Manager

Ms. Peterson, Senior Project Manager with Hester Street Organization on the District 35 Advisory Committee, announced the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP) which is a participatory process regarding land use starting this spring. By working with Hester Street organization, Councilmember Hudson is hoping to create a community needs assessment from input from the community to build a rubric or framework through which the councilmember will determine the way she votes on land use items. The goal is to get ahead of the developers by getting an idea of what the community wants and needs. Additionally, Ms. Peterson stated that part of the rubric will include also looking at open space, commercial space, and all other land use issues.

Mr. Veconi asked for clarity on what would change if a rubric is created given the complicated nature of the ULURP process. He was told that the purpose of the rubric was to inform discussions between the Council Member and prospective developers.

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Dr. Lazur inquired into Governor Hochul's Housing Pact and stated that a lot of the things the Councilmember is seeking to accomplish has the potential to be undone if the Housing Pact is passed as the developer can say that some things negotiated are considered economically unfeasible and thus need to be eliminated. Ms. Peterson agreed and stated that Hester Street and

the Councilmember's office are monitoring the budget discussions around the Housing Pact very closely.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the role of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing or MIH, and a resident asked Ms. Peterson how the community could go about changing the AMI, which is the true issue behind unaffordability. The individual was informed that AMI is calculated at the federal level, and Mr. Orlando Ross from Congresswoman Clarke's office stated that Congresswoman Clarke and Senator Kristen Gillibrand are currently working on a bill to recalculate the AMI.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Peterson for the information and invited Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman to say a few words.

56th Assembly District – Honorable Stefani Zinerman

Assemblywoman Zinerman thanked all those present for their volunteerism as they make the community strong. She announced that the NYS budget is now 12 days overdue and is being held up by discussions on bail reform and the housing pact. Last year, the legislature made adjustments to bail policies, but there is still a need to focus on the latitude that the judiciary has on setting bail. The story of Kalief Browder is the reason the legislative is holding strong on wanting to see bail reform bills in place. Additionally, the budget is being held up because of the push back to the governor's housing pact by those that represent upstate communities. While acknowledging the housing crisis, Assemblywoman Zinerman applauded the proactive approach that Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso is taking by asking the electeds to tell him how many units their community needs. She advocated for state officials to take the same approach instead of relying on a one-sized mandatory numbers game.

The Assemblywoman provided an update on redistricting, stating that the current lines have been drawn in such a way that the 57th AD is being split and losing Crown Heights. She also provided a brief introduction to three key pieces of legislation she is working on including a plain language bill designed to make ballot initiatives as simple and easy to understand as possible (at no greater than a 4th grade reading level). The second bill is to allow community gardens to have access to free water. The free water bill passed at the senate level. The third bill related to strengthening non-profits and making it easier for them to get paid. As the laws stand now, it can take up to 18 months for them to get paid, which reduces their ability to pay their staff and provide services.

Finally, Assemblywoman Zinerman updated the community on some of the upcoming monthly celebrations including the Disability Justice Coalition, Safe Space Saturdays in conjunction with Rise Consultants for people with mental health issues.

A resident asked the Assemblywoman what can be done about the illegal cannabis shops in the neighborhood. They were informed that so far, Brooklyn does not have any legal shops but they are coming with the end of the lawsuit that had been holding up the opening of the legal shops. Additionally, Assemblywoman Zinerman stated that the illegal shops are difficult to enforce against because there are so many and the proprietors simply close for a bit and then re-open a few doors down. She agreed that it is problematic and the Office of Cannabis Management is working closely with the NYPD and NYS Sheriff's office to manage the issue.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Assemblywoman Zinerman for the updates and asked for roll call.

Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Gabriel made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and passed unanimously.

Chairperson Weatherspoon opened the public hearing portion of the meeting, starting with the Executive Committee’s action items.

Executive Committee – Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson

Chairperson Weatherspoon announced that the Executive Committee met on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 via Webex. The committee voted for the removal of three members, Ms. Abasenia Asuqo, Ms. Keiona Morse and Ms. Zahra Thani, for lack of participation. Ms. Asuqo sent a letter of resignation on April 4th. Regarding removal of members, Article 5.5, Section (c) under Membership in the Board’s By-Laws state specifically:

5.5:

(c) An appointed member may be removed from the Board for cause by a majority vote of the Board, only after:

- (i) a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee present and entitled to vote recommends a removal hearing,
- (ii) service of written charges and specifications to the appointed member, at least 30 days prior to a scheduled hearing,
- (iii) a scheduled hearing before the Board, at a general or special meeting, at which the appointed member shall have the right to respond to the charges and specifications, the right to counsel, and the right to produce witnesses or evidence on his or her behalf. The notice of the meeting shall include the hearing on its agenda.

(d) Circumstances which may constitute cause for removal shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (i) Non-attendance at four of the previous six consecutive general or special Board meetings
- (ii) substantial non-attendance or non-participation in two (2) committees of the Board
- (iii) substantial record of missed roll call votes at the Board meeting
- (iv) conduct detrimental to the Board

Both Ms. Morse and Ms. Thani were appointed to the Board in June 2022, and both Ms. Morse and Ms. Thani attended a singular general meeting in that time. Neither attended any committee meetings. The Executive Committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to remove the two members for lack of attendance and non-participation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the floor. Hearing none, Ms. Muhammad made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mitchell and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Environment, Sanitation, Transportation (EST) – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair ; Mr. Mark Thurton, Vice Chair

The Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 via Webex. In addition to the Chair Robert Witherwax, present were: Mark Thurton, Vice Chair, Scott Cunningham, Rev. Dr. Bronco Crooke, James McDougal, Celeste Stern, Deborah Young, Delores Hutchinson, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Elias Guerra, Jose Burbano, James Neville, Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Maldonado, Michelle Morris, Phyllis Grannum, Karen Gray, Peter Krashes, Saskia Haegens, Sophie Martin, Lezlie Woods-Ward, William Meehan and 2 callers.

The committee discussed the For Hire Base License Renewal for International Car Service located 623 Washington Avenue (between Dean and Bergen Streets). Base licenses are renewed every 3 years, and no objections to the base have been raised by the community to the District office. The committee voted 11 in favor with 1 abstention to support the base license renewal in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community. Mr. Callahan stated that he has never heard of a base license renewal and Mr. Witherwax explained that it is a lesser-known advisory capacity of the board.

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

Mr. Witherwax also gave a brief update from the EST Committee, including new waste set out times that went into effect on April 1st. Ms. Wedderburn stated that the new setout times would pose a problem due to sabbath, especially in winter when the sun sets very early. Mr. Witherwax stated that he is sure city officials will identify a workaround, but reiterated that the goal is to get everyone's trash in a container to reduce food available for rodents to eat.

The next meeting of the EST committee will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2023 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, April 3, 2023 via Webex. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were Vice Chair Robert Witherwax, Gail Muhammad, Tamika Gibbs, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema Jordan, Mimi Mitchell, Roger Myers, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Mark Thurton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Dian Duke, Frances Langley, Anthony Caraballo, Brooklyn Waffle House, Ben Drukman, Celene Rosado, Eliza Stamps, Nicole Nicholson, Judith Kitson, Jenny Newman, Olivia Barr.

Reporting on behalf of SLAC and CB8 Chair Weatherspoon, Mr. Witherwax stated that the committee entertained the following new liquor license applications:

1. Brooklyn Waffle House, 742 Nostrand Avenue (between Park/Sterling Places) – Full License

Details of the application include:

- Entertainment inclusive of DJ and live acoustic music
- Hours of Operation 1 PM to 11 PM daily
- 8 tables with 24 seats, 1 separate bar with 3 additional seats

- No outdoor service in any capacity

The committee voted 14 in favor with 1 abstention to support the application as presented in hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the floor. Hearing none, Mr. Veconi 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, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

K's Empire Events LLC, 267 Troy Avenue (St. John's/Lincoln) – Full License

Details of the application for the catering hall/event space include:

- Entertainment inclusive of DJ, recorded music, karaoke, live music, patron dancing, third party promoters on occasion, security personnel
- Hours of Operation Sunday through Thursday Noon to 2 AM; Friday and Saturday Noon to 4 AM
- 6 tables with 60 seats; two separate bar spaces with 4 additional seats each; maximum patron capacity 74
- No outdoor space of any kind

The committee voted 15 in favor with 1 abstention to support the application as presented in hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community. Hearing none, Ms. Mitchell made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried with a final vote of 24 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Autumn Bar & Grill, 629 Vanderbilt Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) –Full license

There are no details to report on the application as the applicant did not appear before the Board despite invitations starting in September 2022 with three requests to be held over until the next month. Unfortunately, in February 2023, the applicant filed for their liquor license application and was calendared for their 500-foot hearing.

As such, the committee voted to send a letter to the NYS Liquor Authority expressing our disappointment that we did not have the opportunity to review, give any input with regard to the 500 foot rule or even meet the applicants as an established practice with new licensees. The committee hopes the full Board supports sending the letter.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions or comments from the community. Mr. Callahan asked if the establishment is a new business and why the Board is seeking to preliminary not support it. Mr. Witherwax informed him that the Board usually has an opportunity to meet with proprietors and give feedback. In this case, we have not had the opportunity to do this, and so the letter to the SLA is that we cannot support the application because we know nothing about the application and space, and more importantly, how it will fit into the community.

Ms. Atkinson made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gabriel and carried with a final vote of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:15 via Webex. All are invited to attend.

Land Use

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, April 6, 2023 virtually via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Abby Downs, Pierre Albert, Princess Benn-James, Jacques Brunvil, Robert Callahan, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema Jordan, Peter Krashes, Frances Langley, Dr. Sarah Lazur, Kwasi Mensah, Mimi Mitchell, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Jack Robinson, Nicole Laemle, Kim Robinson, Gib Veconi, Deborah Young, Cathy Iselin, Danielle Sucher, Eric Burnett, Esteban Giron, Irsa Weatherspoon, Jay Marcus, Judith Kitson, Melissa Maykin, Michael Francoeur, Marc Abrams, Nizjoni Granville, Nora Daniels, Patrick Brady, Paul Regan, Raymond Kang, Robert Cody, Mark Thurton, Todd McArthur and 3 callers.

The committee discussed the following applications before the Landmarks Preservation Commission:

LPC Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 225 Prospect Place – Prospect Heights Historic District –Replacement of Windows and Enlargement of Window at Basement Level

The applicant appeared before the committee for window replacement, and specifically, enlargement of basement window into a larger casement window with matches work that has been down in an adjacent building. The existing windows are aluminum windows with aluminum clad brick mold around the openings. The proposed windows are wood clad in aluminum on the exterior. The window manufacturer selected by the applicant can produce an extruded aluminum brick mold that would approximate the Italianate brick mold found beneath the existing aluminum cladding.

In particular, the applicant would like to replace a window partially obscured by the stoop with a larger casement window to provide an egress. This window would be a casement window that would be simulated to look like a double hung window upon the advice of Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The applicant also proposes to replace the windows at the rear of the building with windows like those in the front of the building. Additionally, the applicant proposes to remove a lean to shed affixed to the rear of the building.

On motion made a motion and seconded, the committee voted 14 in favor, 4 opposed, with 4 abstentions to approve the applicant's proposal for the wooden windows with the caveat that the enlarged basement window would be functional, and a double hung window. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community. Hearing none, Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 22 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

LPC Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 597 Vanderbilt Avenue – Prospect Heights Historic District –Full width rear yard extension

Mr. Robert Cody, owner and applicant presented for 597 Vanderbilt Avenue. The applicant has made an application for a certificate of appropriateness for a full rear yard extension and for the first floor restaurant. These changes will allow the ground floor restaurant to expand its interior dining space. As part of the expansion, there will be a roof deck expansion and reconfiguration for the second floor dwelling unit. There are no abutting properties except for those on Vanderbilt Avenue and thus can have 100% coverage for the entire lot. Nothing will change from the street side of Vanderbilt Avenue. On Bergen Street the rear yard space cannot be viewed.

Supporting information included that the neighboring lot, 595 Vanderbilt and 599 Vanderbilt, has a full yard extension.

On motion made and seconded, the committee voted 16 in favor, with 1 opposed, and 1 abstention to support the application. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community. Hearing none, Dr. Lazur made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Ms. Wedderburn also provided the committee's report, informing the Board that members also received an update on the Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) signed with several of the ULURP applications.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:15 PM via Webex. All are invited to attend.

Nominating Committee – Mr. Brian Saunders and Mr. Mark Thurton

The Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 and Thursday, April 6, 2023 to discuss the upcoming elections for new Community Board 8 officers. In addition to Kimberly Watson, Chair present at the meeting were Brian Saunders, Mark Thurton and Michelle George, District Manager. The committee reviewed and discussed the By-Laws, process, timeline, attendance records of all board members at meetings in an effort to come up with the best slate of potential candidates for the 7 seats.

After two lengthy discussions, the committee voted in favor of the following slate:

Chairperson: Irsa Weatherspoon and Robert Witherwax

1st Vice Chairperson: Gail Muhammad

2nd Vice Chairperson: Deborah Young

3rd Vice Chair: Nizjoni Granville

Treasurer: Yahya Raji and Drew Gabriel

Secretary: Robert Callahan

Sergeant at Arms: Tamika Gibbs and Sarah Lazur

Mr. Saunders opened the floor to accept additional nominations for the officer positions. Hearing none, he stated that the elections will be held at the May 11, 2023 general meeting at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph's located at 856 Pacific Street. All voting must be in person by signed paper ballot. As per the By-Laws No proxy or absentee voting will be allowed. All 1 candidates

will have the opportunity to campaign to their fellow board members. The district office will provide the candidates with the necessary information.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committees for their reports and invited elected official representatives to give updates and make announcements.

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 via WebEx. In addition to the chair, Brian Saunders, present were: Mark Thurton, Kim Robinson, Karen Gray, Jacques Brunvil, and 1 caller.

The committee did not submit minutes, however, Mr. Saunders reported that the committee is working with former board member Atim Oton of Calabar Exports to host a job fair on May 19, 2023 on Franklin Avenue between Park Place and Prospect Place from 1-6pm. Please spread the word.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. All are welcomed to attend.

Health and Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on March 16, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the chair, Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kimberly Watson, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack, Frances Langley, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kim Robinson, Kwasi Mensah and 1 caller.

No committee report was submitted. The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on May 18, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Vice Chair, Lisa Atkinson, present were: Mimi Mitchell, Ethel Tyus, Frances Langley, Kim Robinson, Xeerxeema Jordan, Dr. Sarah Lazar, Princess Benn-James, Hanif Hyazdi and Tasheika Gordon.

No committee report was submitted; however, Ms. Atkinson mentioned that the committee discussed the AMI and the issues with basing affordable housing on the current AMI as calculated by HUD. They also discussed the Senate bill Housing Access Voucher Program, which would create a New York State housing voucher program similar to Section 8 that would be available to those that make 50% of the AMI or less. The programs would make it easier for more people to access housing assistance vouchers.

Ms. Atkinson made a plea for more people to attend Housing Advocacy meetings as it is difficult to address the needs of residents and their complaints if only five people are in attendance.

The next meeting of the Housing Committee will be held on May 10, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the chair, Glinda Andrews, present were Frances Langley, Kim Robinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Alexandra Morman, Carolyn Johnson, Sandra Coello, Robert Saffer, Charles East, Ena McPherson and 3 caller.

The committee submitted a full report. In addition, Mr. Thurton mentioned the Earth Day Fun Day and It's Not Easy Being Green Eco-Fair on Saturday, April 22, 12pm-4pm and Juneteenth Monday, June 19, 11am-3pm. "Juneteenth in Brower Park 2023: Celebrating the Black Women's Movement. There will be music, dance, giveaways, and more!

The Lincoln Terrace Tennis Association cordially invites you to attend the following events at Lincoln Terrace Park: NYC Parks Department Outreach Cleanup Program, April 15, 2023 at 10am Coaches Workshop, April 22, 2023 @ 10am, and also First Day of Summer Program, May 13, 2023 @ 10am, (Registration starts at 8am), COST: Juniors \$50; Adults \$60 and lastly, USTA / LTTA Essential Worker's Event on June 11, 2023 @ 10am at Lincoln Terrace Tennis Courts, Cost: Free (Sponsored by NY Presbyterian Hospital)

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. via WebEx. In addition to the chair, Mark Thurton, present were: Princess James, Dorothy Bemby-Guet, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Xeerxeema Jordan Jennifer Jordan, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson, Janet Collins, PO Vidal, Katrina Thomas-Markland, Nizjoni Granville, Roger Myers, Wendi R. and 1 caller.

No committee report was submitted, however, Mr. Thurton stated that there has been an uptick in auto theft incidents where people leave their cars running and unattended for what they believe to be short durations. Ms. Young asked him if the precinct had any numbers on catalytic converter (CC) thefts as she was recently a victim of a stolen CC. He stated he would inquire.

The next Public Safety meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:15 PM via Webex. All are welcomed to attend.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm. at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place.

The committee submitted a report: They took a moment of silence for one of their members who passed away, Ms. Annabelle Boyd. Members briefly spoke about Ms. Boyd's impact on their lives.

The committee had a guest speaker Ms. Selma Jackson from Age Friendly Central Brooklyn Inc. She discussed the following: Age Friendly NYC was established in 2007 by the NYC Mayor's Office and the New York City Council. They advocate for Seniors needs. They attend Advocacy day in Albany Caucus Weekend and in June. They sponsor Social Inclusion Groups, host film

screenings and discussions once a month, they meet up for lunch, yoga twice a month, storytelling, thread beads, Rest & Care, etc. . On April 15th Brooklyn Quilters Guild will sponsor an event in Prospect Park. Quilts made by members will be on exhibit.

Several other events for seniors will take place during the month of April. There is an annual membership fee of \$25 for seniors 62 years of age.

Officer Vidal and Det. Marte from the 77 Pct. Community Affairs reminded everyone to safeguard purses and wallets because a number of snatchings have taken place in the area. They warned not to wear crossbody bags (they will drag you) and Don't keep valuables in pocketbook – spread out your cash in different pockets, plan out your day stay in well lit areas, don't get distracted at the ATM – if you see money on the floor do not pick up, complete your transaction and then pick it up.

Lastly, the Crown Heights Local Development Corporation will be offering CPR classes. More information will be given at a later date.

The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at Crown Heights Apartments 1055 St. John's Place – Community Room. Ms. Muhammad stated that the committee will host Congresswoman Clarke's Listening Tour, where the community will inform the Congresswoman of the issues important to residents. The meeting season will close in June with a musical tribute and live band. All are welcomed to attend.

Veterans – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Veteran's Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall, Dian Duke, Christopher James, Xeerxeema Jordan, Princess James, Orlando Ross, Salim Cadet and Tiffany Forte.

The committee submitted minutes which stated that Orlando Ross, and Salim Cadet from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office gave a very informative update on the federal resources available to veterans such as local medical facilities with Veteran Services, Veteran Affairs - employment services, vocational services, GI bill, burial services. They also stated that there is a Library of Congress proposal for Veterans memories and awards. They also provided the website for all federal jobs [USAAjobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov).

The next meeting of the Veterans Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Youth and Education – Nora Daniel, Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on April 4, 2023 virtually via WebEx. In addition to the chair Nora Daniel, present were: Marva Brown-Henry, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Atkinson and Mark Thurton.

The committee did not submit minutes. The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committee chairs for their reports and opened the floor to elected official representatives and public comments.

Ms. Arlean Gilin from Councilmember Chi Osse's office announced the following activities in the 36th CD:

- Housing Info with CUFFH Affordable Housing Services is held every Tuesday from Noon to 6 p.m.
- Migrant Resource Day is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Migrants can apply for various services including WIC, transportation, housing, health insurance, immigration attorneys, and can even apply for a free cell phone or tablet.
- Free Legal Immigration Advice will be offered on May 11th, and June 8th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins will be accepted.
- Spring Tree Giveaway will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 2 to 4 p.m., where 200 trees will be distributed at Marcy Library located at 617 DeKalb Avenue. You must register for this event.
- Bike Day will be held on May 13, 2023 from 2 to 11 p.m. Join the Councilmember for a bike around the 36th Council District. Meet at 2 p.m. at Restoration Plaza (with a bike) for the ride, then enjoy music, food, karaoke, and a movie screening of Beat Street at sundown. All will be held at Restoration Plaza. The Councilmember is seeking places in Crown Heights for promotion on the bike route.

All services are provided at the Councilmember's office located at 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 500. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 718-919-0740.

Mr. Orlando Ross from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office announced the Congresswoman's Listening Tour to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 6 to 8PM in conjunction with the CB8 Seniors Committee at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. The Congresswoman is seeking to hear from the community the issues that are important to you. He also announced that the Congresswoman is working on legislation to address recalculating the AMI. Finally, Mr. Ross encouraged those close to college age kids to consider attending a military academy. The five federal undergraduate service academies do not charge students for tuition, textbooks, uniforms or room and board. Each academy provides extensive fitness and leadership training, which are combined with a rigorous curriculum that includes courses in the humanities and sciences. Academy graduates typically receive a military commission for a junior officer position immediately upon graduation, though alumni of the Merchant Marine Academy frequently find leadership roles at nonmilitary federal agencies.

Ms. Ana Garcia from Councilmember Crystal Hudson's office announced the following events held by Councilmember Hudson:

- Every Second Tuesday of the month, Constituent Services hours with Brooklyn Neighborhood Services are held at the Central Library located at 10 Grand Army Plaza from 4-8p.m.
- The Councilmember is working with Hester Street, who has issued a survey for community feedback on the current land use decision-making process in New York City, which many feel does not work for our communities. The process is deeply flawed, and too frequently

you don't play a meaningful role in shaping the outcomes of a new building or development project. A survey has been created to generate community feedback, and all are encouraged to complete it. The survey can be found at <https://bit.ly/d35survey>.

- The next Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP) Community Planning Open House will be held Sunday, April 16th from 2p.m. until 5:30p.m at 966 Fulton Street. The Open House will start with an optional walking tour (non-walking accommodations will be available to those who need it) from 2p.m.-3p.m. followed by the Open House from 3pm-5:30p.m., where attendees can visit topic-based stations staffed by city agencies, review background information on the topic, ask questions, and provide ideas for draft solutions and recommendations. The event is meant as a space to share ideas and draft recommendations on the future of the Atlantic Avenue corridor.
- The second set of AAMUP working group meetings will start next Thursday, April 20th, with the Economic Development, Human Capital, and Services Working Group. Land Use, Density, and Housing will meet on Wednesday, April 26th; and Streets, Infrastructure, and Open Space, will meet on Thursday, April 27th. All meeting will be at PS 9, 80 Underhill Ave from 6:30pm-9pm.
- Know Your Rights Panel and Resource Fair on April 18th in partnership with Camba Homebase. The event will focus on Empowering Voucher Holders and will be held in-person at Medgar Evers College on Tuesday, April 18th, from 6pm-8pm. Space is limited, RSVP today! You can also contact CAMBAHBO outreach@gmail.com with any questions.
- Coffee with Crystal will be held on April 29th at Clementine Bakery in Clinton Hill from 9a.m.-11a.m.

For more information or to RSVP for any of the upcoming events, please call 718-260-9191.

Ms. Kristen Rouse from Congressman Dan Goldman's office announced that April kicked off the start of the Congressional Art Competition. The winning piece from each district will hang in the Capital complex in Washington DC for a year. The winning students from each district are also invited to Washington D.C. to meet each other and their representative as well as to view their art on display. The competition is for high school students who either live or attend school in New York's 10th Congressional District. Students can submit their applications before May 1, 2023 at <https://goldman.house.gov/services/art-competition>. Winners will be announced shortly after.

Responding to several reports of USPS mail theft issues, Ms. Rouse reported that Congressman Goldman recently sent a letter to United States Postal Service Postmaster General Louis DeJoy urging him to address the rise in mail theft from USPS mailboxes in New York City. The Congressman's office received numerous complaints over the past weeks from concerned New Yorkers who have had their vital documents stolen from USPS mailboxes. Having checks, medical documentation, passports, or other identifying information stolen puts New Yorkers at serious risk. It is imperative that the United States Postal Service do everything in its power to ensure that mail, property, and information transported through the USPS is secure.

Residents experiencing mail theft should report the incidents by going to their local NYPD precinct or dialing 911. New Yorkers can also file a report with the Postal Inspection Service by calling the

hotline at 1-877-876-2455 or by going to www.uspis.gov/report so that federal crimes can be investigated and addressed.

Ms. Deanna Foote announced that all reappointed and newly appointed members should be contacted in the coming days and are expected to attend their swearing in on May 4th at 6 p.m. at Borough Hall. Additionally, Ms. Foote announced an Aging in Place event that will be held on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. at a senior center in Sunset Park. For the specific location and additional information, please call Borough Hall at 718-802-3700. Finally, Ms. Foote announced that Reverend Kimberly Council has been appointed as the new Deputy BP effective Monday, April 17th.

Mr. Raul Rothblatt from Assemblymember Brian Cunningham's office announced the Iftar party held in conjunction with Assemblymember Charles Fall. The Iftar Party will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 to break the fast with Masjid Kawthar at the German School located at 760 Sterling Place (between Bedford and Rogers Avenues). Please arrive by 7 p.m. as the fast will break with a meal served directly after sunset, which occurs at 7:39 p.m.. For more information, contact Assemblyman Cunningham's office at 718-771-3105.

Ms. Camille Barbin from Senator Zellnor Myrie's office informed the Board that budget negotiations are late, and that the Senator is fighting for safety net hospitals, clean slate legislation, and bail reform among others.

Ms. Deb Young from the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA), announced that CHNA will be hosting its Annual Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:45p.m. at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue. The theme is "Building the Future," and the invited speakers are Bridge Street Development Corporation, Historic District Council, the United States Postal Service, and the 77th Precinct. For more information, contact CHNA at 646-580-8229. Additionally, CHNA will be hosting a shredding event from 9 a.m. to Noon at St. Gregory's RC Church, 991 St. John's Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue) on April 22nd.

Mr. Gib Veconi from the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) announced that on Earth Day, April 22nd PHNDC invites you to come to a car-free earth day in Prospect Heights. There will be free entertainment and family programming on Vanderbilt and Underhill Avenues as well as cleanup crews taking part in Cleanup Prospect Heights starting at Underhill Plaza on Underhill between Atlantic and Pacific.

Representative from the Black Lady Theater, informed the Board that BLT will be hosting an anti-violence forum at Restoration on April 29th. She stated that arts can help us (as a community) heal some of the violence on the street.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected official representatives and those that made announcements and comments. She asked for old business/new business. Ms. Atkinson asked if committee reports could be given at the beginning of the meeting so that the reports could be heard by a greater number of people. Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Atkinson for the suggestion and adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Guests Present

Nicole Nicholson
Lula Staton
Jennifer Jordan
Gregory Anderson
Justine Nava
Jonathan Marable
David Lipkin
Angela Amola
Renee Davila
Thelma McInnis
Jose Burbano

Martin Ortiz
Sabrina Daniels
Julius Buseche
Arnold Carter
Judith Kitson
Ken Marable
Turquoise Haskins
Rodney Seymour
Veronica Nero
Valerie Nero-Reid
Alex Bueno