

**Community Board 8  
Weeksville Heritage Center  
156 Buffalo Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**December 8, 2022**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Lisa Atkinson  
Marva Brown-Henry  
Jacques Brunvil  
Nora Daniel  
Dian Duke  
Andrea Ferris  
Michael Francoeur  
Fred Frazier  
Tamika Gibbs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Frances Langley  
Dr. Sarah Lazur  
Kwasi Mensah  
Mimi Mitchell  
Gail Muhammad  
Fior Ortiz-Joyner  
Nicole Tetreault  
Ethel Tyus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young  
Vilma Zuniga

**Elected Officials Present**

Councilmember Darlene Mealy, 41<sup>st</sup> CD  
Councilmember Chi Ossé, 36<sup>th</sup> CD  
43<sup>rd</sup> District Leader Surana Purcell  
43<sup>rd</sup> District Leader Akel Williams

**Members Absent/Excused**

Abasenia Asuquo  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Robert Callahan  
Drew Gabriel  
Igenie Harris-Blenman  
Colin Jakubczyk  
Regina Kinsey  
Keiona Morse  
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack  
Yahya Raji  
Celene Rosado  
Brian Saunders  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Mark Thurton  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Sharon Wedderburn

**Elected Officials Representatives**

Camille Barbin, NYS Senator Zellnor Myrie, 20<sup>th</sup> SD  
Arlene Gillin, Councilmember Chi Ossé, 36<sup>th</sup> CD  
Leon Tulton, Councilmember Darlene Mealy, 41<sup>st</sup> CD  
Raul Rothblatt, Assemblymember Brian Cunningham, 43<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Casie Addison, Councilmember Crystal Hudson, 35<sup>th</sup> CD  
Karen Chambers, Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
Deanna Foote, Borough President Antonio Reynoso

**CB8 Staff Present**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

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The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:25 PM by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson. She opened the meeting by thanking the Weeksville Heritage Center for its hospitality, and inviting Ms. Tatiana Lammie to say a few words.

Ms. Lammie welcomed everyone to Weeksville's historic and sacred grounds. She provided a brief background and history of Weeksville and the Center's purpose and mission is an historic site and cultural center in Central Brooklyn that uses education, arts and a social justice lens to preserve, document and inspire engagement with the history of Weeksville, one of the largest free Black communities in pre-Civil War America, and the Historic Hunterfly Road Houses.

The vision is to be a leading authority and resource for the scholarship, exploration and dissemination of the history of Weeksville and other 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century free Black communities, as well as the modern-day artistic, intellectual and social justice imperatives they exemplify and inspire. Our work will illuminate a pivotal aspect of Black history; empower our visitors with tools, training and education; celebrate and center Black culture, community and creativity; and spark dialogue and collaborations between local residents, artists, academics and activists that advance us towards a more just and equitable world.

Please visit the website's tourist page and book a tour of the homes as the tour is an emotional experience and you will leave blown away by the experience and the programming to continue the work of Weeksville and the story. Finally, Ms. Lammie announced an upcoming Kwanza program at the center, where they will partner with Asana Youth Group. For more information, visit <https://www.weeksvillesociety.org/>.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Lammie for the welcome and invited Councilmember Chi Ossé to say a few words.

#### **Councilmember Chi Ossé** – 36<sup>th</sup> Council District

Councilmember Ossé thanked the Board for the opportunity to address members. He also announced that his office would be closed for a much needed vacation period from December 22, 2022 through January 3, 2023. If you need support either before or after these dates, please stop by the office, which is located at 1360 Fulton Street in Restoration Plaza on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.

The Councilmember announced that he recently participated in a toy giveaway at Brower Park in partnership with Friends of Brower Park. They combined the Toy Giveaway with the holiday tree lighting and his Wellness Wednesday campaign. The last Wellness Wednesday of the year will be at Sumner Houses in Bed Stuy. He announced that they will also be doing a second toy give-away at this event as well.

A legal attorney is at the office on every Thursday, and the last time they will be present for this year will be the coming week. The attorney has been very popular, especially with those that need assistance in housing law.

Councilmember Ossé announced that his office will be hosting a Narcan training from 4 to 5PM at Basquait's Bottle located at 1198 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. Owners and staff of eating and drinking establishments are invited to attend the free training to learn how to administer Narcan and protect neighbors and patrons from overdose. Narcan is an overdose reverse drug and is starting to be distributed in the city. If you know a small business owner that would like to participate in the training, contact Councilmember Ossé's office at 718-919-0740.

He stated that it has been an honor to be the councilmember in the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District, and his office is presently dealing with several issues around inflation and public safety. If you have any suggestions on how his office can assist with tackling community issues, please contact him. He

concluded by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. The office is here to support in any way, shape, or form that they can.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilmember Ossé for the report and invited Councilmember Mealy to say a few words.

**Councilmember Darlene Mealy** – 41<sup>st</sup> Council District

Councilwoman Mealy introduced herself as a returning Councilmember, having sat out one term due to term limits. She stated that it is really good to be back as the elected representative for Brownsville, Crown Heights, Ocean Hill, and Stuyvesant Heights. She proudly announced that her office has also been a resource in the community, hosting bi-weekly food distributions of both hot and cold food. Additionally, she stated it was great to be in the finished Weeksville Heritage Center, as she donated millions of dollars for the building, which after it was completed, was redistricted out of the 41<sup>st</sup> Councilmanic District.

Expressing the mission of Weeksville, Councilwoman Mealy encouraged everyone to also visit Brownsville’s Heritage House located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard. She stated that as a community, we must utilize the resources available to us, and recognize the beauty of our neighborhoods historic spaces. The Councilwoman also encouraged everyone to visit Stone Library, the first children’s library in the world, which sits on the ground floor of the Heritage House. She announced that the parking lot was sadly repurposed for housing because there wasn’t enough involvement in the planning process to protect the historic nature and leave a space for visitors from outside the district. She encouraged cross-community participation because what occurs in one district impacts another.

The Councilwoman announced that she is sponsoring a Toy Give-A-Way on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from Noon to 3 PM at her office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue between East New York Avenue and Pitkin Avenue. Children must be present to receive a toy.

Councilwoman Mealy stated that she has several appointments for members on CB8. If you are interested in serving on the Community Board as an appointed member and you live in the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District, please call her office at 718-953-3097. Applications for membership are currently being accepted.

Dr. Lazur mentioned her affiliation as a member of CB8 and also the Crown Heights Tenants Union (CHTU), and asked what could be done to help the tens of thousands of people facing eviction as the statewide moratorium on evictions has lifted and in the face of growing housing insecurity and inflation. She was informed that legal assistance will be in the office starting next week to assist tenants.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilwoman Mealy for the update and invited District Leader Purcell to say a few words.

**District Leader Sarana Purcell, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District**

District Leader Purcell announced that CB8 is one of the most active boards, and we keep her busy every week. She encouraged everyone to please visit the Brower Park Christmas Tree, as it is a beautiful gem in the community. She urged that you do not have to travel to Manhattan to see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree as something just as beautiful exists right here in the community.

The District Leader stated that there is a lot of interest in the final lines that will be presented as a result from redistricting. The maps were released on December 1<sup>st</sup> for review and there will be 12 hearings across the state to review the new lines. There will be an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the maps. District Leader Purcell stated that she recognized that one of the concerns the community had was the proposed division of Crown Heights, and all expressed their desire to keep Crown Heights intact in the new lines. She encouraged everyone to view the maps and comment on the new lines that will take effect in 2024 and will directly affect who represents you. The Brooklyn hearing for the new lines will be at Medgar Evers College on February 15, 2023 at 4 PM. You can visit [www.nyirc.gov](http://www.nyirc.gov) for all of the hearing dates.

District Leader Purcell invited everyone to join her and VIDA for their Young Professional's mixer to support small businesses on December 20, 2022 from 6-9PM at Sweet Brooklyn Bar located at 608 Nostrand Avenue. There will also be a toy drive at this mixer.

Finally, she announced that in her District Leader role, she is taking feedback from the community with regards to the election process. A virtual post-election hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., where she will present the community's concerns. The NYC Campaign Finance Board's Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC) wants to hear from voters and election workers about their experiences in the 2022 elections. You can find more information about the hearing on the NYC Votes Events Calendar at <https://www.nycvotes.org/events-calendar/>.

To attend, you must register in advance to receive the link. The registration link is found on the NYC Votes Events Calendar by searching "Virtual Meetings." Anyone who wishes to submit written testimony or deliver spoken testimony must register, and then complete a Google Form before the VAAC hearing.

Mr. Mensah asked how those interested in being poll workers could contact her for work assignment. He was informed that residents can email her at [sarana@bkdistrictleader.com](mailto:sarana@bkdistrictleader.com).

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked District Leader Purcell for the information and invited District leader Akel Williams to say a few words.

### **District Leader Akel Williams, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District**

District Leader Williams thanked those present that voted for him, and stated that he is ecstatic to represent the 43<sup>rd</sup> District and work with the constituents of Community Board 8. He acknowledged that it was his first meeting, and is excited to be present to represent.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked District Leader Williams and welcomed him aboard. She then invited the elected official representatives to provide brief updates.

**Mr. Raul Rothblatt** from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham's office stated that it was great to see so much representation from CB8 at the most recent meeting of the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign. It is a really important topic that will have far reaching impact. The Board is doing great work in terms of being active participants in community discussions, and it is a tradition that is very long and proud in CB8, and especially in conjunction with the work of the Weeksville Historical Society.

Mr. Rothblatt announced that the Assemblyman is partnering with group called BRATA, and will be hosting a free performance on December 17, 2022 at Medgar Evers. If you would like tickets to the free performance, please contact the office at 718-771-3105. Mr. Rothblatt also announced several other upcoming events including an arts discussion panel on Yiddish culture.

Finally, Mr. Rothblatt presented District Manager, Michelle George, with her long awaited Women of Distinction Award. He stated that Assemblyman Cunningham's first event was the Women of Distinction, which was held in March 2022. He apologized to Ms. George that it took so long to get her the proclamation, and thanked her for her patience as the office moved through their growing pains. Ms. George thanked Mr. Rothblatt and Assemblymember Cunningham for the honor.

**Ms. Karen Chambers** from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office announced that the DA is beginning several initiatives in District 8. During Thanksgiving, DA Gonzalez distributed food and other life necessities to the homeless. She thanked all those that came and donated much-needed coats for those not accustomed to New York winters. As such, from the feedback during the food giveaway, the DA's office is sponsoring another coat drive to get many more donations for the growing need. Donations of all winter gear can be brought to the DA's office at 250 Jay Street.

Additionally, there will be another gun buyback program with heightened cash awards for guns that are surrendered in an effort to reduce the number of guns on the street. \$500 bank cards will be given for each handgun and \$150 bank cards will be given for rifles. BB guns can also cause serious damage and death, and can be surrendered for a \$50 bank card. The buyback will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Cornerstone Baptist Church located at 574 Madison Street from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Ms. Deanna Foote** from Borough President Antonio Reynoso's office introduced herself as the Director of Constituent Affairs. She announced that BP Reynoso recently distributed 500 "Born in Brooklyn" baby boxes that came with diaper bags, baby wipes, changing mats, and a host of other items that typically do not come in baby bags. The leading cause of post-partum death is an untreated mental health condition, and a major concern of BP Reynoso is maternal health. Brooklyn, especially Central Brooklyn, has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation. Ms. Foote also announced that BP Reynoso participated in a turkey giveaway for the holidays, distributing several hundred turkeys and holiday meal kits prior to Thanksgiving.

Community board applications are currently being accepted now through February 15, 2023. Members that are up for reappointment should have received notice that they are up for renewal and how to submit an application.

Constituent walk-in days are still currently being held at Grand Army Plaza Library from 10 AM to 6 PM through the end of the month. Starting in January, however, they will be held every Wednesday from 9 AM to 5 PM at Borough Hall.

Finally, Ms. Foote announced that upcoming State of the Borough Address on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6PM at the New York City College of Technology located at 275 Jay Street, Brooklyn. You can RSVP at [www.brooklyn-usa.org/bk-sotb-rsvp-23/](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/bk-sotb-rsvp-23/). If you have any questions or need additional, Ms. Foote encouraged the community to contact her at 718-802-3869.

**Ms. Casie Addison**, Chief of Staff with Councilmember Crystal Hudson’s office announced that the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP, pronounced “aim up”), the community-led rezoning process that will synthesize the feedback of local residents and stakeholders to inform what the future of Atlantic Avenue should look like, has finally kicked off and is underway. Over the next few months, the office, in collaboration with the Department of City Planning and WXY Studios, will host meetings to hear from the community about what you want to see in this corridor as we build off the hard work of Brooklyn Community Board 8’s MCROWN sub-committee and determine the future of this increasingly residential corridor.

More details will be shared in the coming weeks. For now, the office is asking anyone interested in participating to register for the upcoming kickoff meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6pm by signing up at [www.bit.ly/AAMUP-jan-kickoff](http://www.bit.ly/AAMUP-jan-kickoff). At this meeting, you’ll learn more about the community planning process, help identify key issues in this area, find out how you can be part of the process, and share your priorities.

The NYC Dept. of City Planning has created a new website with a plethora of information that can be accessed immediately. If you would like to peruse the information available and the scope of the plan, visit. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/atlantic-avenue-mixed-use/atlantic-avenue-mixed-use-overview.page>.

**Ms. Camille Barbin** from Senator Zellnor Myrie’s office announced that the Senator is collecting toys for a Toy Drive through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Toys can be dropped off to the Senator’s office located at 1077 Nostrand Avenue. Furthermore, like Councilmember Ossé’s office, Senator Myrie’s office will be closed from December 19, 2022 until January 2, 2023. Afterwards, constituent services will be available by appointment only by calling 718-284-4700.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected official’s representatives for the information. Next, she thanked the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct for providing police coverage and presence, and offered the opportunity for Community Affairs to say a few words.

**Police Officer Wallen** wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. If you need any assistance, please reach out to herself, PO Vidal, or Det. Marte.

**Police Officer Vidal** introduced himself as the Crime Prevention and Community Affairs officer. He stated that this time of year shows a historical increase in package thefts and phone scams affecting the elderly. He reminded everyone that gift cards are for gifts and not for paying bills. As such, if someone, regardless of how legitimate the number seems, calls and demands that a bill be paid with a gift card, do not do it. Scammers are slick; they get aggressive, change their number ID on the phone to match that of the legitimate company or organization. They can claim with a lot of accuracy many of the details that are in your account, but one minor detail will be off, and it will usually be very small and easily missed. However, the biggest tell is that they ask for payment with gift cards.

Councilwoman Mealy asked how the police department is tracking this scam. She was informed that the NYPD now tracks scams via a scam hotline. Calls to 646-610-SCAM go directly to 1 Police Plaza and entered into a data sheet.

Ms. George asked Officers Wallen and Vidal if the 77<sup>th</sup> will get additional officers around the holiday this year as they used to, and was informed that they did not receive additional officers

this year. Officer Vidal stated that wherever the borough needs people is where officers get dispatched from the pool of recent graduates.

Ms. Young asked if the command has any updated information on Mayor Adams' initiative to remove mentally ill homeless from the street, and was informed that the department commands had not received any guidance and updates yet.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct for the update and invited Ms. Lillian Jean-Baptist to make a presentation on the Academy for College Preparation and Career Exploration.

**Academy for College Preparation and Career Exploration at Erasmus Hall Campus** – Ms. Lillian Jean-Baptist, Community Liaison

Ms. Jean-Baptist presented a detail presentation on the Academy for College Preparation and Career Exploration at Erasmus Campus, which is a District 17 school. The presentation included the vision, mission, and purpose of the school, which is one of five public schools on the Erasmus campus. Students in the school begin receiving exposure to college beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and by 7<sup>th</sup> grade, are taking high school regents exams and taking high school classes. By their junior year of high school, many students have completed enough high school course work to graduate early.

Because it is a community school, additional services are received and rendered. For instance, all 9<sup>th</sup> graders take a Career Pathways course to introduce and expose them to several options for career and studies alignment. Additionally, all students in the school have opportunities to earn one full year of college credits for free, which is a valuable resource that saves thousands of dollars for college-bound students. Additionally, there is an employment agency for workplace experience for juniors and seniors that meet the requisite GPA requirements. These students receive on-the-job training with pay ranging from \$15-\$18 an hour. This program is offered in partnership with CUNY College Now, and has been a tremendous success.

As a community school, the additional resources allow for additional technological enhancement for student education, and each classroom is equipped with a tablet and laptop for each student. Athletic scholars are enrolled in several sports programs under the Erasmus brand, and free afterschool programs for kids focused on athletics, academics, health and wellness are also provided. Ms. Jean-Baptist explained that community schools stay open longer during the week and stay open during the summer for programming and services. They have several community partners including crafting partners, My Brother's Keeper (an initiative started by former President Barack Obama), and several other notable community partners.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Jean-Baptist for the detailed information and encouraged parents of junior high and high-school aged children to consider enrolling their children in the school to take advantage of the services rendered.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for roll call, and after determining that a quorum was present, asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting.

Mr. Mensah made a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried unanimously.

Chairperson Weatherspoon then opened the Public Hearing for actionable items and committee reports.

## **Public Hearing**

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

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked Vice Chair Robert Witherwax to give the following report. Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met on Monday, December 5, 2022 via Webex Virtual Meeting platform. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were Vice Chair Robert Witherwax, Adrianna Golovatii, Audrey Shen, Dian Duke, Benjamin Korngut, Mimi Mitchell, Nick Brennan, Brian Saunders, Celene Rosado, Colm Kirwan, Deborah Williamson, Deborah Young, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Gib Veconi, Tamika Gibbs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Joe Byun, Joel Clacken, Karl Booth, Nate & Rachel, Wayne Bailey, Karen Gray, Marcos A., A. Downey, Roger Myers, Sharon Wedderburn, Omar Hardy, Mark Thurton and 3 callers.

#### **1. Gertrude, 605 Carlton Avenue – Full License**

Details of the application include:

- Hours of operation: 9 AM to midnight Sunday through Thursday; 9 AM to 1 AM Friday and Saturday
- 12 tables with 32 seats; 1 service bar with 9 seats; max patron capacity is 74
- Sidewalk café seating with dimensions of 40x5 for 800 sqft. Contains 8 tables with 16 seats that will operate until 11PM Sunday through Thursday and until midnight Friday and Saturday
- DOT open streets seating on Carlton Avenue and St. Marks Avenue with 12 tables and an additional 26 seats that will have the same hours of operation as the sidewalk café

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the condition that all outdoor seating close daily at 10 PM. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community and the Board. Hearing none, Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lazur and carried with a final vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

#### **2. Entity to be formed by Nicholas Brennan at 789 Franklin Avenue (store A) – Full License**

Details of the application include:

- Hours of operation 10 AM to 2 AM Sunday through Wednesday; 10 AM to 4 AM Thursday through Saturday
- 10 tables with 24 seats with 1 service bar with 10 seats; max capacity 74
- Open restaurants sidewalk seating with dimensions of 6x6 and 36 sqft, holding 4 tables with 8 seats
- Open restaurants roadway seating of 10x6 for 60sqft with an additional 4 tables and 8 seats
- All outdoor seating to operate until 11PM daily



The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the conditions that the outdoor seating areas close by 10 PM and the indoor space close at 2 AM daily. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community and the Board. Hearing none, Ms. Mitchell made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

### **3. Holic, 592 Nostrand Avenue – Beer/Wine/Cider license**

Details of the application include:

- Hours of operation Noon to 10:30 PM Sunday through Wednesday; Noon to 11:30 PM Thursday through Saturday
- 6 tables with 12 seats and 1 service bar with 7 seats; maximum patron capacity is 24
- No outdoor service areas

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the conditions that proper documentation illustrating the floorplan, notice to neighbors, and a petition of support for the business are received by the District office prior to the evening's meeting.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community and the Board. Hearing none, Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muhammad and carried with a final vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

### **4. Suite Restaurant, 704 Nostrand Avenue – Full license**

Details of the application include:

- Establishment in existence since 2018, but operating without liquor service since 2020 and the information below is what was approved by the Board in 2018. There are no changes to the methods of operations.
- Entertainment options in method of operations include DJ, karaoke, live music, and security personnel
- Hours of operation 11 AM to 3 AM Sunday; 11 AM to 2 AM Monday through Thursday; 11 AM to 3 AM Friday and Saturday
- 13 tables with 50 seats and 1 service bar with 20 seats for a maximum patron capacity of 140
- Rear yard with dimensions 40x30 with 12 tables and 30 seats that closes daily at 10 PM. There are plans to enclose the space to reduce noise escaping. Presently, there is a roof covering.

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

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community and the Board.

Ms. Mitchell inquired into what happened between 2018 and present day that the establishment lost their liquor license. Mr. Clacken, the establishment's proprietor, explained that they were issued the license in 2018 and operated without incident, but was unable to obtain the Letter of No

Objection (LNO) from the NYC Dept. of Buildings in a timely fashion. He further explained with the assistance of Mr. Witherwax that an LNO is generally outside of the applicants' responsibility and falls on the property owner, but the State Liquor Authority still removed the liquor license. When asked about the significance of the LNO, Mr. Clacken and Mr. Witherwax explained that the LNO tells the SLA that the applicant/liquor license holder is not the one that originally combined the building in this particular case.

Ms. Mitchell also noted that the Board has been issuing licenses with a 2 AM cut off time, but this application was approved for a 3 AM. She inquired into why the extra hour is being allowed in this instance, and Mr. Witherwax explained that in 2018 when the applicant initially appeared, there were a lot fewer bars on Nostrand Avenue. Additionally, all applicants can have as of right a 4 AM closing time if there isn't a 500-foot exception required. At the time of this initial application, it was not a 500-foot exception, so the committee approved the application according to the original 2018 plans and method of operations.

Mr. Mensah asked what the nature of security is, and was told that there would be two security officers.

Ms. Duke made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mitchell and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

#### **5. Poke Tiky Bar, 564 Vanderbilt Avenue – Wine/Beer/Cider license**

Details of the establishment include:

- 3 tables with 2 seats each for 6 seats; 1 service bar with 5 seats; maximum patron capacity is 25 patrons
- Hours of operation 11 AM to 8 PM daily
- There is outdoor seating, but the floorplan was not submitted

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application with the condition that the applicant submit the floorplan for the interior space as well as dimensions for the outdoor seating. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for questions and comments from the community and the Board. Hearing none, Dr. Lazur made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mitchell and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the SLAC committee will be Monday, January 9, 2022 due to the New Year's Observed holiday. The meeting will be via Webex, and details can be found on the CB8 website.

#### **Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair**

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Brian Saunders, present were: Drew Gabriel, Celene Rosado, Frances Langley, Princess James, Mark Thurton, Kim Robinson, Yahya Raji and Conor Hassett.

No committee report was submitted, and the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. All are welcomed to attend.

**Environment, Sanitation and Transportation** – Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax reported that the sub-committee's of the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee met virtually on November 22, 2022 via Zoom. The following is a breakdown of the sub-committees' discussions.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL/SANITATION

- a. 6:15 PM by Zoom
- b. Attendees: Atkins, Francoeur, Haegens, Harris-Blenman, Jacubczyk, Witherwax
- c. Topics discussed:
  - i. COMPOSTING
    1. Communicate CB8's desire to participate with local electeds
    2. Work with local non profits and community organizations (gardens) to raise visibility of existing/bring additional compost drop off programs
      - a. Especially eastern half
      - b. Underhill Plaza
  - ii. CONTAINERIZED TRASH
    1. Devise framework for residential containerized waste pilot
    2. Educate public on benefits
    3. Work with merchants association to participate in existing pilot
  - iii. RATS
    1. Educate public on new laws
    2. Educate public on littering, proper waste management
    3. Advocate mandatory bins (no curbside bags) for mixed use/multiple dwelling buildings
    4. Advocate mandatory covers/hinged lids for 1-4 residential dwellings
  - iv. SWEEPERS/ASP
    1. What are the alternative solutions to ASP?
    2. Smaller scale sweepers
  - v. PUBLIC CANS
    1. Request more cans on more corners
    2. Educate public on illegal dumping
  - vi. OVERALL
    1. Pressure on electeds to change emphasis. The "way things are done" is not working for CB8 in terms of cleanliness, and we need the powers-that-be to rethink the way waste is handled: garbage, recycling and compost; street cleaning; rat eradication.
    2. Personal responsibility is where cleanliness starts. Education of the ways in which each of us can keep NYC cleaner and greener is valuable. Public service announcements in many forms can be effective.

2. STREETS/TRANSIT

- a. 7:00 PM by Zoom
- b. Attendees: Atkins, Francoeur, Gerber, Gray, Haegens, Harris-Blenman, Jacubczyk, Jordan, Krashes, Langley, Meehan, Ortiz-Joyner, Tetrault, Tyus, Witherwax, Young\*
- c. Topics discussed:
  - i. DATA MANAGEMENT
    1. Two spreadsheets:

- a. QOL: report areas of concern
    - b. Public Realm Improvements: running list of projects
  - 2. Add a 'hot link' to enter data?
  - 3. Running tally of "Hot Spots"
- ii. BUS SERVICE
  - 1. Brooklyn Bus Map re-draw is coming out soon: review and comment.
  - 2. Bus signal priority not only for SBS
    - a. Center-running Bus lanes on Flatbush?
  - 3. Educate public on OMNY and ways for seniors/those without smart phones to ride.
- iii. RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT
  - 1. State bill introduced to include Prospect Heights in zone
  - 2. Read and comment on bill
  - 3. Study other RPP models - What fits CB8?
  - 4. Educate public on benefits/drawbacks of RPP
- iv. CROSSWALKS AND CURBS
  - 1. Where do we need better intersections? Daylighting, ramps, raised crosswalks? Or capital re-design?
    - a. Bedford and Atlantic noted as missing ramps
  - 2. School zones should have priority for safety improvements
  - 3. Use Crashmapper and open data sources to prioritize intersections
- v. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
  - 1. Double parking rampant, especially on commercial N/S avenues: more enforcement necessary
  - 2. Bill to permit citizen reporting of parking infractions (Intro 501)
  - 3. More red light and speed cameras
  - 4. Obscured license plates, out of state license plates, etc: better enforcement, steeper fines/penalties
    - a. RPP would require residents to register cars in NYC
  - 5. ASP: cars that don't move should be ticketed, fines increased.
    - a. ASP should be reduced as unnecessary traffic generator
- vi. BIKE LANES
  - 1. Protected lane on Bedford
- vii. SUBWAY ENTRANCES
  - 1. Re-open closed entrances (B/Q at Seventh, 2/3 at Eastern Parkway Brooklyn Museum, etc)
- viii. ATLANTIC AVENUE
  - 1. Project to re-think Atlantic from Flatbush to Bedford(?) starting soon
  - 2. CB8 EST should participate.
- ix. OVERALL
  - 1. Keep in mind the diversities of CB8 and the variety of transportation needs. Be conscious of the need to communicate and reach out to those not 'at the table' to solicit their input.
  - 2. Education is valuable. Pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, transit users all share some responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.
  - 3. OK to say "Solution X works for Location Y, but Location Z needs Solution Q". No one-size-fits-all approach for the entire CB8 district.

### 3. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS:

- a. Immediate Action items can be done by subcommittee members and presented to the Full Committee on January 24, 2023.
- b. Long Term Action items will be on-going projects with a May 2023 completion goal.
- c. ENVIRONMENTAL/SANITATION Subcommittees:
  - i. Immediate Action:
    1. Draft correspondence to officials requesting:
      - a. More street refuse cans at specific locations
      - b. expansion of composting to include CB8
      - c. changes to rules for residential containers
    2. Invite DSNY to CB8 EST meeting to discuss:
      - a. containerization pilot participation
      - b. sweepers
      - c. ASP
  - ii. Long Term Action:
    1. Establish possible parameters of residential containerization
    2. Hold a public education forum on new Rat Action Plan laws
- d. STREETS/TRANSIT Subcommittees:
  - i. Immediate Action:
    1. Populate spreadsheet ‘hot spots’ based on crash data, observation
    2. Invite DOT to CB8 EST to discuss hot spots
    3. Attend / review Brooklyn Bus draft events
    4. Draft correspondence to officials requesting:
      - a. Safety treatments for most problematic intersections
      - b. Support for Intro 501 / enhanced enforcement measures
      - c. Reopening of closed subway entrances
      - d. Protected bike lane on Bedford
  - ii. Long Term Action:
    1. Draft comments on Brooklyn Bus Plan
    2. Advise public on OMNY / Metrocard conversion
    3. Study RPP – host a public forum?
    4. Participate in Atlantic Avenue project

At the end of the synopsis, Mr. Witherwax fielded several questions and angry accusations regarding CitiBike from several CB8 members and residents. After several reminders that Mr. Witherwax does not work for either DOT or CitiBike, the two entities responsible for the bike stations and their sitings, Ms. Tyus asked if the Board could obtain a copy of the contract between the city and Lyft/CitiBike. Ms. George stated that she would reach out to DOT.

The next meeting of the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Health and Human Services** – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met virtually on Thursday, November 17, 2022 via Webex. In addition to the Chair Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kim Watson, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack, Frances Langley, Kwasi Mensah, Jeff Berman, Joel Kaufman, John Crepsac, Joel Meisels, Karen Milasso, and Kim Robinson.

The committee did not submit a report, but Ms. Gibbs announced that the committee heard a presentation regarding a proposed new residential drug treatment program with 32 beds. The program will be two parts, with a detox and then up to 6 month residential stay. The presenters will make a presentation before the full Board in the next few months.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on December 15, 2022 via webex. Details can be found on the CB8 website, and all are welcomed to attend.

### **Housing (Advocacy)** – Nizjoni Granville, Acting Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Acting Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Mimi Mitchell, Frances Langley, Jack Robinson, Nicole Laemmle, Kim Robinson, Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, Mike Shaheen, Princess James, Robert Callahan and Dr. Sarah Lazar.

The committee did not submit a report, however, Ms. Granville summarized discussion at the last meeting, where members had expressed thoughts that Land Use and Housing Advocacy committees should be one committee, and it had to be explained that in the past, they were one committee but split into two because of the volume of applications for new projects and landmarks applications that prevented time for discussing true housing related issues. It was then suggested that the two committees should consider having joint meetings on quarterly basis.

The next meeting of the Housing Committee will be held on December 14, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Land Use – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair**

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, December 1, 2022 virtually via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Norman Order, Mimi Mitchell, Cathy Iselin, Deborah Young, Ella Levitt, Elaine Weinstein, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Carter Clarke, Gib Veconi, India Sneed-Williams, Jack Robinson, Nicole Laemmle, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, Kwasi Mensah, Michael Francoeur, Kim Robinson, Princess James, Nadine Oelsner, Nizjoni Granville, Karen Gray, Pedram, Pierre Albert, Richard Lobel, Robert Callahan, Robert Puca, Dr. Sarah Lazar, Julie Swoope, Mark Thurton, William Oelsner, William Rhem and 1 callers.

Chair Wedderburn asked Gib Veconi to present a review of MCROWN history and CB8 action items relating to MCROWN from 2013 to the present. A timeline and various motions passed by CB8 were presented. Relevant materials are attached to these minutes.

The committee continued preliminary discussion on 962 Pacific Street. The applicant and their counsel were present to discuss their proposed development at 962 Pacific Street. They reiterated their willingness to work with the Committee and the community regarding this development but restated their reluctance to wait to proceed until the redevelopment plan for the neighborhood is established.

In New Business, Elaine Weinstein and Gib Veconi summarized their notes from the first meeting of the Atlantic Avenue Steering Committee, which is part of the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan.

Chair Wedderburn and Ethel Tyus are also members of this Committee. Steering Committee members will continue to report to the Land Use Committee on future meetings and developments.

The Committee has established four working groups and encourages community members to participate in the working group discussions. No dates are available yet for these working group meetings.

Chair Wedderburn adjourned shortly before 8:00pm. The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:15 via Webex. Details can be found on the CB8 website and all are invited to attend.

### **Parks** – Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Glinda Andrews present were: Frances Langley, Colin Jakubczyk, Sandra Coello, Kim Robinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Nizjoni Granville, Mark Thurton and 3 callers.

The committee did not submit a report, however, Ms. Andrews stated that the committee discussed the lifeguard shortage the city faced last summer and the early open lifeguard recruiting application to ensure that sufficient lifeguards are hired for the city's beaches and public pools. Specifically, the St. John's Rec center needs lifeguards as without them, there is limited access to pool. Call the center at 718-771-2787 for full programming information. In other updates, construction on the Lincoln Terrace Park comfort station is scheduled to start Spring 2023. The Brower Park Library in the Brooklyn Children's Museum is slated to open sometime in early to mid-2023. Ms. Andrews also encouraged everyone to read the CB8 newsletter for upcoming events with Brower Park.

Councilwoman Mealy asked which comfort in Lincoln Terrace Park would begin, and Ms. Andrews stated the one near the tennis court that the Councilwoman had funded when she was first in office. Councilwoman Mealy expressed her delight that the project was finally underway despite being late and now costing more money than several years ago when she first allocated the funds.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Public Safety** – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee met virtually on Tuesday, November 28, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair Mark Thurton, present were: Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair, Xeerxeema Jordan, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Igenie Harris-Blenmen, Jennifer Jordan, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson, Dorothy Bemby-Guet, Tamika Gibbs, Janet Collins, Marva Brown-Henry, Princess James, Lt. Polanco, and Roger Myers.

The following were the minutes submitted by the committee:

Report from 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Pcts:

77<sup>th</sup>: There has been an uptick in robberies and package thefts, and officers provided suggestions for safety. Several shootings have occurred, and the shooting on Albany near Prospect Place is possibly gang related. In response to Nostrand Avenue shootings, also possibly gang related, is increased officer presence on the Avenue.

78<sup>th</sup>: Pct Commander Frantz informed that committee that only one crime has occurred in Prospect Heights area in the last 4 weeks, and the command mainly handles credit card and subway crime for the portion of CB8 they cover.

Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman provided a report on the Marijuana Regulation Tax Act (MRTA). The goal is to protect young people and though MRTA is legal, it is only legal for 21+. The community is urged to report when people who are not adhering to the law are operating. 37 new licenses were awarded recently, in hopes they will set the standard for lifting prohibition in NY State. The Assemblywoman introduced Ester Lelievre, the Social Engagement person for AVR, a private health care company not based in NYC. Ms. Lelievre and Jessica Naissant from Social Engagement Foundation presented on cannabis. Both are from CCF, a cannabis company and offered an informational session about cannabis in NY

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023 via webex. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Seniors-** Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Gail Muhammad, also present were: Andrea Ferris, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema, Jordan, Clara Odom, Gloria Freeman, Brenda White, Mary McNair, Esther Butcher, Gloria Ayala, Herbert Pillman, Estelle Rogers, Willa Robinson, Mildred Smith, Jennie Armstrong, Mary E. Williams, Frances Langley, Julia Boyd, Deborah Young, Loretta Fisher, Brenda Green, Faye Jones, Yvonne Bailey, Annabelle Boyd, Essie Spivey, Ida Golson, Mary Bonham, WM D. Rogers, Diana Wusa, Barbara River, Helen Selby, Sharon Joseph, Sarah A. Scott, Pricilla Kessler, Catherine Gibbs, Bridget Duncan, Patricia Washington, Hermie Huggins, Gilbert Perlman, Phil Newman, Dana Ottey, Maxine Leo, Julie Pierance, Linda Ferrette, Julia Boyd, Joyce Bolden, Yvonne Bailey, Carmen Martinez (Local Development Corp).

Ms. Muhammad went around the room to have everyone introduce themselves. Members would like for an Herbalist to come out in January. Licenses have been approved for many cannabis stores, there will be more sites opening up. Most cannabis can be smoked and cooked; (edibles) to make brownies, gummies and tea. It also can be used for medicinal conditions.

Major changes to the NYC Transit bus system – stay tuned for upcoming public hearing meetings. A petition was circulated regarding Access A Ride services to eventually go to Mayor Adams office. (Representative from Borough Wide Interagency Council on Aging Statewide NY Statewide Senior Action Council Inc).

Ms. Muhammad invited everyone to participate in the committee as they are lively bunch. She specifically wished a Happy Birthday to Ms. Frances Langley, a very active member of the committee and an active member of CB8.

Ms. Atkinson informed Ms. Muhammad that several of the seniors at Kingsboro's senior center do not feel like they are getting the same outreach that other senior centers get. As such, she is seeking to get the board to come out and do things in the center and mention services to make them feel more included.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy informed Ms. Atkinson that she is Chairperson of the Council's Seniors and Older Adults Committee on the Council, and she just sponsored a cruise for 500



seniors across the Hudson River. She advised Ms. Atkinson to have the participants at the center contact her office for services and information as it falls within the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District.

The next Senior Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2022. Crown Heights Apartments 1055 St. John's Place – Community Room.

**Veterans** – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Veteran's Committee met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 virtually via WebEx. Ms. Granville reported that the Veteran's Committee joined Community Board's 3 and 16 for their annual Veterans Appreciation Parade, which took place on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 12pm beginning at Park Place and Ralph Avenue down to Fulton Street. The Parade ended with a resource fair at Boys and Girls High School from 1-4pm. They had 5 grand marshals and a keynote speaker. Please check the community board website for the next meeting date.

The next meeting of the Veteran's Committee will be Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:15 PM via Webex. Details can be found on the CB8 website, and all are invited to attend.

**Youth and Education** – Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Brown-Henry, Vice Chair reported that the Youth and Education Committee met virtually on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Vice Chair, Marva Brown-Henry, present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall, Craig Walsh, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kimberly Watson, Lisa Atkinson, Mark Thurton, Sharon Wedderburn and 1 caller. The committee submitted the following report from the meeting:

Members are encouraged to attend CEC meetings, and the CEC 16 Breakfast this Friday, December 9 from 9am-11am. Adelaide Sanford Institute has done a lot of outreach to the community board – a non-profit that wants to help parents better navigate the DOE and understand how best to advocate for their children. The next Meeting is this Saturday, December 10 @ 9am, Location: Boys and Girls HS (the community board already sent out the info via email). Please check out Community Board Youth Engagement Meetings – there were 4 scheduled but next one that is not a conflict is December 12 – please use this opportunity to hear from youth who are civically engaged about what their needs are and how to communicate effectively with them and meet them where they are.

Presentation by Craig Walsh: Family Access Plan (FAP) is an opportunity for families to get help for children who are having behavioral issues – this is an alternative to filing a PINS (Person in Need of Supervision Warrant – which is court mandated) as FAP is voluntary. Once identified families are offered services like: 21 days respite; in home counseling; substance use treatment; mental health services; mentoring program by credible messengers. Really they want to get to the problem youth (age 10 -18, but some as young as 5) before there is an arrest and NYPD involvement.

HOW does the public learn about FAP? Schools know, NYPD knows (and are the biggest FAP referrers) but also community presentations like this to let the public know that they exist. Also, once a parent walks into Family Court for a PINS warrant, the Court is going to first direct the parent to FAP.

NOTE: Where a child is missing, new law is for NYPD to refer child to FAP and offer 14 days of voluntary service BUT if child does not show up, does not cooperate with the recommendations and services THEN case will go to court for mandates. Success is measured by whether or not the

concerns that brought the caregiver to FAP in the first place are no longer happening. And does the caregiver now have the tools to adequately address behavioral concerns on their own.

Question included how can a young person be a peer mentor? Mentor program is referred out to community providers – in Brooklyn that is the Police Athletic League. Mr. Walsh will send more information.

Public Comments were around kids’ access to guns, flaunting them on social media, attacking peers on the street because of comments made to loved ones – and schools say that they cannot do anything unless they actually witness a crime. This makes it seem that kids can do and say whatever they want without any consequences. Ms. Henry, a Legal Aid attorney, stated that there are many consequences that kids need to be reminded of – NYPD is monitoring social media – they are creating a public record that can be taken to a judge to get a warrant, get family home kicked in, which would lead to arrest and possible loss of family housing. Proliferation of guns is a major issue, and the demand for a gun buyback program that the community has asked NYPD and the DA’s office for several years is more urgent than ever. Corporate Sponsors should be giving larger financial donations to buy back operable guns that are very valuable on the streets.

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 via WebEx. Details can be found on the CB8 website and all are welcomed to attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committees for their reports and opened the floor for announcements and old business/new business.

Mr. Mensah asked if anyone present attended IS320, and announced that they will be having their 50th anniversary dinner dance in June.

Ms. Granville asked members if they had a chance to attend Borough President Reynoso’s ULURP training, and Ms. Mitchell stated she did attend. Ms. Granville thanked her for attending, stating that it is important members take advantage of the trainings that are offered. If it is not the quality you expect, mention it so that future trainings can be better and more informative.

Ms. Tamika Gibbs announced that Imperial Bikers will have their annual Feed the Hungry event on Sunday, December 18, 2022 from 2 to 5 PM at the bike bar located at 652 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). This year will be another edition of “grab and go.”

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and Happy New Year. She adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at a location to be determined.

### GUESTS

Manoushka Jeanty  
Elyse Blythe  
Yolanda McBride  
Johnny Redd  
Nick Brennan  
Gail Doran  
Nathan Turner

Joel Clacken  
Lynette Anthony  
Jennifer Jordan  
Kartika Fuentes  
Marcus Aguilar  
Lillian Jean-Baptist  
Nathan Archer

Dana Ottey  
Atiba Stevenson  
Conor Hassett  
Kim Robinson  
Phyllis Grannum  
Roger Myers  
Paul Blanchette