

**Community Board 8
General Meeting and Public Hearing
New Life Tabernacle
1476 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

February 9, 2023

Members Present

Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Marva Brown-Henry
Robert Callahan
Dian Duke
Michael Francoeur
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Xeerxeema Jordan
Frances Langley
Dr. Sarah Lazur
Kwasi Mensah
Mimi Mitchell
Gail Muhammad
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Yahya Raji
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Nicole Tetreault
Gib Veconi
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

CB8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Liaisons Present

Deputy Inspector Tony Brown, 77th Pct
Teresa Cunningham, Dept. of Sanitation

Members Excused/Absent

Glinda Andrews
Abasenia Asuquo
Lisa Atkinson
Julia Boyd
Jacques Brunville
Nora Daniel
Andrea Ferris
Fred Frazier
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Colin Jakubczyk
Regina Kinsey
Keiona Morse
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Celene Rosado
Zahra Thani
Mark Thurton
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials Present

Assemblyman Robert Carroll 44th Dist.
Councilwoman Crystal Hudson, 35th Dist.

Elected Officials Representatives

Arlean Gillin, Councilman Chi Osse, 36th District
Emmitt Sklar, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Leon Tulton, Councilwoman Darlene Mealy, 41st Dist.
Deanna Foote, Boro President Antonio Reynoso
Betsy Schmid, Congressman Dan Goldman, 10th District
Karen Chambers, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Ana Garcia, Councilwoman Crystal Hudson, 35th Dist.
Camille Barbin, Senator Zellnor Myrie, 20th Dist.
Raul Rothblatt, Assemblyman Brian Cunningham, 43rd Dist.
Emad Ansari, Assemblywoman Stephani Zinerman, 56th

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Weatherspoon. She welcomed everyone to the February meeting, and invited Councilwoman Hudson to say a few words.

Councilmember Crystal Hudson – 35th Council District

Councilmember Hudson thanked Chairperson Weatherspoon for the opportunity to address the Board. She shared quick legislative updates on the “Age in Place NYC” legislative packet, announcing that she is proud to have been named Chair of the Aging Committee with the council. The councilmember stated that older adults currently represent 20% of the City’s overall population, and sadly, greater than 25% of older adults in the city live at or below the poverty line. To help combat this, and to make NYC a habitable place for our seniors to live with dignity, Councilmember Hudson announced that she introduced a series of 10 bills called “Age in Place NYC,” four of which have passed in the Council already. The four bills offer the following:

- Entitle any New Yorker age 60+ facing eviction or termination of tenancy in housing court to full legal representation at no cost, require the Department for the Aging (DFTA) to provide financial assistance to persons 60+ to pay for rental arrears if they are ineligible for other programs, and require DFTA to create a housing support program for older adults.
- Require DFTA to create a know your rights pamphlet for older adults.
- Expand programming in centers to include linguistic and cultural programs relevant to the communities they serve.
- Require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to develop a list of universal design features and require these to be installed in all dwelling units in a new housing development project when a developer receives government subsidies.

Councilmember Hudson thanked everyone for the opportunity to provide such an important update, and asked Ms. Ana Garcia, her Constituent Services Liaison, to provide an update on upcoming events sponsored by her office.

Ms. Garcia announced the following:

- The next Coffee with Crystal will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9 a.m. at HeadHi Espresso Bar on 146 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn. Ms. Lindsay Greene, President & CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard is the special guest.
- 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. At this month’s event, OATH will be present to provide information on dealing with summonses, online defense/hearing processes, and rescheduling hearings.
- For Black History Month, the office is hosting an “Investing in Black Brooklyn” in-person Community Conversations Series on February 24 and 27, 2023. You must RSVP for this event.

For more information on the Age in Place packet of bills or to RSVP for any of the upcoming events, please call 718-260-9191.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilmember Hudson and Ms. Garcia for the information and welcomed Assemblyman Robert Carroll to his first CB8 meeting.

Assemblyman Robert Carroll – 44th Assembly District

Assemblyman Carroll thanked Chairperson Weatherspoon and members of CB8 for the opportunity to address the Board and introduce himself as one of CB8's newest elected representatives. The Assemblyman stated that he is in his 7th year in the NYS Assembly and his first representing most of Prospect Heights in CB8 as a result of redistricting.

He provided the Board with a little background about himself, stating that he was a member of Community Board 7, which provided him with integral knowledge of the importance of community boards. Assemblyman Carroll announced that he recently met with Schools Chancellor Banks and announced a new literacy program as literacy and education are very dear to him as a child of a teacher.

The Assemblyman also provided the Board with information on the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health. It helps more than 325,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. Seniors can apply for EPIC at any time of the year and must be enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits and maintain coverage. EPIC provides secondary coverage for Medicare Part D and EPIC-covered drugs purchased after any Medicare Part D deductible is met. EPIC also covers approved Part D-excluded drugs once a member is enrolled in Part D.

Finally, Assemblyman Carroll distributed copies of his seasonal newsletter and stated that his office is available to assist with any and all constituent issues. Please call his office for assistance at 718-788-7221.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Assemblyman Carroll for the information and stated she looks forward to working with him. She then asked Deputy Inspector Tony Brown of the 77th Precinct to say a words.

Deputy Inspector Tony Brown – 77th Precinct Commanding Officer

Deputy Inspector Brown thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and re-introduced himself as the Commanding Officer of the 77th Precinct. He stated that if you are interested in knowing what is going on in the community in terms of public safety and policing, please attend the Precinct Community Council meetings, NCO Build the Block meetings, and also the CB8 Public Safety Committee meetings. The next Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7 PM at New Life Tabernacle Church located at 1476 Bedford Avenue (corner of Sterling Place). You will have the opportunity to meet the NCO sector officers and build a relationship with them, thus making them more effective in the community.

The Clergy Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 11 am via Zoom. Please contact Community Affairs for the information to log into the meeting at 718-735-0634.

Finally, Deputy Inspector Brown introduced the new officers assigned to the command as well as their supervisor and training officer. He stated that they will mostly be stationed on Nostrand Avenue but will be repositioned around the command according to need.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Deputy Inspector Brown for the information and welcomed the new officers to the 77th. She wished them well in their service with the NYPD and opened the floor for elected official representatives.

Ms. Arlean Gillin from Councilmember Chi Ossé's office wished everyone a Happy Black History Month. She provided the following updates:

- Wellness Wednesday is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until supplies last at Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street. Food, toiletries, and other necessary supplies are distributed.
- Migrant Resource Day is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Restoration Plaza located at 1360 Fulton Street, 5th Floor. 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.
- The next Family Law Clinic will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Councilmember's office located at 1360 Fulton Street on the 5th Floor. Individual and confidential legal consultation on many issues including child/spousal support, custody/visitation, domestic violence information and assistance, consumer debt and identity theft, and much more is available.
- A few dates for free tax preparation have been scheduled on Tuesdays, February 21st and March 7th from 10 to 3p.m. Those getting their taxes done will need to bring their prior year's tax return and this year's information.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 718-919-0740.

Ms. Deanna Foote from Borough President Antonio Reynoso's office thanked everyone that attended either in-person or virtually the State of the Borough Address that was held on January 10th. Ms. Foote invited the community to celebrate Black History Month at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, February 23, 2023 from 6p.m.-9p.m., where Borough President Reynoso will join Brooklynites to celebrate its rich Black and African-American history, present and future with performances, special guests, and authentic food all from the borough. The evening will also serve as opening night of the Brooklyn is Africa: Survival + Persistence = Resistance art exhibit, in partnership by the Cultural Museum of African Art. The exhibit will be open to the public February 24 through March 3. More information on the exhibit will be featured on www.brooklyn-usa.org.

Finally, Ms. Foote announced that the deadline for membership applications has been extended to February 23rd and for early submitters, emails have been sent to choose your interview date and time.

Ms. Camille Barbin from Senator Zellnor Myrie's office announced Senator Myrie's State of the 20th Senatorial District address will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Medgar Evers College located at 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information or to RSVP, please call 718-284-4700. It is a great opportunity for you to hear about the Senator's priorities for the next year. Volunteers are needed to assist with the event, if you are interested, please call the office.

Ms. Barbin announced that a NYC Housing Connect ambassador is stationed in the office. Their office is always open and available for constituent services and affairs, and constituents are invited to visit this month as they are celebrating Black Future Month, an offshoot inspired by Black History Month all month long in the office. Black Future Month seeks to highlight bills that Senator Myrie is sponsoring.

Mr. Raul Rothblatt from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham's wished everyone a Happy Black History Month and stated that a lot of great events sponsored by the Assemblyman's office are coming up including redistricting events, landmarking of 227 Duffield Street, and several other community taskforces. He provided background on 227 Duffield Street, stating that during chattel slavery, the borough of Brooklyn and New York City were big supporters of the southern slave system but that the borough and city also had a very strong history of resistance to slavery as well. 227 Duffield was integral to resistance and abolitionism and is thought to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad when occupied by abolitionists Harriet and Thomas Truesdell from 1851 to 1863.

Mr. Leon Tulton from Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office announced several services available at their office:

- First and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until supplies last is a food and PPE distribution pantry.
- Second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until food lasts is a hot food distribution.
- Every Tuesday from 1 a.m. to 1 p.m., a housing specialist is in the office to assist with all housing related needs.
- Every second Thursday, an Immigration Specialist is available in the office by appointment only.

For information on any of the above services or to schedule an appointment for the Immigration specialist, please call the office at 718-953-3097.

Mr. Emmitt Sklar from Public Advocate (PA) Jumanne Williams' office announced that he is happy to have been recently onboarded at the Public Advocate's office and working with CB8. He announced that the PA's office has a constituent services department with a series of specialists available to assist with all issues faced by city residents on a daily basis. He can be reached by email at esklar@advocate.nyc.gov.

Ms. Betsy Schmidt from Congressman Dan Goldman's office introduced herself to the community, announcing that Congressman Goldman took office in January, but is excited to serve the residents of District 8. The office can directly assist with any federal government related casework request such as social security, veteran's affairs, congressional arts competitions, and so much more. For assistance, please visit their website at <https://goldman.house.gov/> to schedule an appointment for assistance or to

begin the application process for them to file on your behalf by signing the privacy agreement. Just a few pieces of information are necessary for them to help you.

Ms. Schmidt announced that Congressman Goldman was excited to celebrate Lunar New Year, which occurred shortly after he took office. He is working with several other Congressional members make Lunar New Year a federal holiday. Additionally, Congressman Goldman is working on Immigration Reform in Congress as he sits on the committee for Homeland Security.

While the office is not available for walk-ins yet, Ms. Schmidt stated that they do have operable telephones and constituents can call them at 718-312-7575.

Mr. Emad Ansari from Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman's office announced two big legislative updates, the first that the Assemblywoman introduced is to provide community gardens with free water, and the second geared toward prioritizing black history education in schools, pushing for the assignment of the Amistad Coalition to the State Department of Education rather than the Department of State. Coupled with the Amistad Coalition is an Underground Reading Initiative to cure the shocking number of below grade readers in the city. The Assemblywoman's office is extremely concerned about the route the redistricting is taking. The new lines, if adopted as drawn, would dilute the black vote in Crown Heights. As such, the Assemblywoman is sponsoring buses to Albany so the community can get their voices heard.

Mr. Ansari announced an upcoming Housing Forum on February 28, 2023, stating that about 40 buildings in Bed Stuy and Crown Heights have been flagged with having over 250 major code violations. For more information and the location, please call the office at 718-399-7630

Ms. Karen Chambers from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office announced that the DA's office is here to assist residents with information via the Action Center. Every crime that occurs in Brooklyn comes through the DA's office if it goes through the NYPD. If you need assistance or guidance on a case, call her or the Action Center at 718-250-2340 to be guided through the case. Ms. Crawford also announced the DA's upcoming Black History Month event on February 23, 2023 at 6 p.m. at St. Francis College's Livingston Street location. Seating is limited.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected official representatives for their announcements and invited Father (Fr.) Christopher Heanue from the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph to say a few words.

Father Christopher Heanue – Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Teresa of Avila

Father Christopher introduced himself to the community, stating that he took over the parish about a year ago for Monsignor Harrington who had been with the parish for 13 years. He stated that his responsibilities are at both the Co-Cathedral and St. Teresa of Avila due to the shortage of Catholic priests. He announced that the two church communities are hoping to be resources for community events not to increase church numbers, but rather to provide benefits and a sense of community. To this end, the church sponsored a block party last summer and is currently planning another one for this summer as well as an upcoming musical showcase. Additionally, they are planning a version of Oktoberfest this coming fall. Fr. Christopher reiterated that the social events are not church related and open to everyone of every denomination. He also acknowledged one of his members who is also a member of Community Board 8 Ms. Audrey Taitt-Hall.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Fr. Christopher and welcomed him to the community. She then opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments

Ms. Deborah Young from the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) announced that their next general membership meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:45 PM at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. There will be a presentation on protecting wealth and estate planning. All events sponsored by CHNA are made possible due to funding from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham, Councilmember Chi Ossé, and Councilmember Crystal Hudson.

Ms. Arna Lipkind thanked her former colleagues in government for the wonderful job they are all doing. She currently works for Connect IDDC Crown Heights, a mental health facility with a holistic health approach to mental health treatment.

Ms. Michelle George, CB8 District Manager, read a thank you card to the Board on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Staton. She stated that Mr. Staton is our longest standing member since inception of Community Boards. Their card thanked everyone for support after the loss of their daughter a few months ago.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their announcements and invited the evening's presenter, Ms. Teresa Cunningham from the NYC Department of Sanitation, to say a few words.

Dept. of Sanitation – Ms. Teresa Cunningham, Executive Director, Bureau of Community Affairs

Ms. Cunningham stated that she is the Executive Director at the Bureau of Community Affairs. She wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the new regulations related to curbside garbage placement. Starting April 1, 2023, the set-out time for garbage placement curbside will change. If you are placing your garbage out in a 55-gallon container or smaller that has a lid, you will be able to set your garbage out at 6 p.m. However, if you are setting your garbage out in a garbage bag, you must wait until 8 p.m. to place it out or risk a fine. This applies to businesses as well. There will be mailers sent to all homes as well as digital campaigns to alert the community of the new rules changes.

Ms. Young asked what happens to homeowners if you are putting garbage out with a lid and the lid invariably gets lost? Ms. Cunningham stated that department will work hard to make sure that all bins and lids get returned to where they belong, but homeowners are also encouraged to get flip top lids rather than full removable lids, or to tie the lid to the can so that they remain attached.

Dr. Lazur stated that she is excited to see the smart compost bins around the district and asked for more information. She was informed that 250 cans were installed to corners citywide and you must first download the app to use the bins. Curbside composting is coming to Brooklyn October 2, 2023. Ms. George stated that the locations for all the smart compost bins are listed in the boards monthly newsletter "Across the Board".

Ms. Benn-James asked why DSNY was changing the set-out time for garbage. She was informed that there are several reasons including the increased number of complaints pertaining to sidewalks

obstructed by trash, rodents and other vermin, and also because NYC has the earliest trash set-out time of every major city.

Mr. Atkins asked if DSNY will allow residents to pick up compost in the borough and if additional compost pick up sites will be created. He was informed that DSNY will indeed participate in compost givebacks.

Ms. Taitt-Hall recapped a situation she experienced with a compost bin that did not open despite following the instructions in the app. She was instructed to email info@smartcompost.nyc to report the malfunctioning bin. Additionally, when Ms. Taitt-Hall questioned the placement of a bin on Underhill Avenue at Bergen Street, she was also instructed to submit the question to the info email for the smart bin as that is the general email for all smart bin inquiries and reports.

Ms. Muhammad stated that everyone, especially a lot of seniors, do not know or understand apps and consequently cannot use one to open the compost bins. Furthermore, a lot of seniors do not have smart phones. She asked why informational campaigns were not released to inform people of the bins, and also what mechanism are place to assist responsible citizens that want to be environmentally conscious and compost, but might not have the technology necessary to allow them to use the bins. Ms. Tetreault explicitly asked if the bins can be accessed without the app and without a smart phone.

Ms. Cunningham informed Ms. Muhammad that the informational campaigns are coming, but the bins were installed prior to the campaign being finalized. As for seniors and others that lack the necessary technology to use the bins, Ms. Cunningham stated again that curbside composting will be coming to Brooklyn in October 2023. Additionally, she suggested that the community could take a communal approach to using the bins where one person with the technology collects the trash of others that do not for disposal. While each individual can indeed do their part, the community as a whole can come together to make sure that everyone does their part as there is no way for the bins to be accessed without a smart phone as of yet.

Mr. Veconi inquired how community organizations can sponsor a compost giveback in the community at a local park. Ms. Cunningham stated that she would get back to the Board with the information as there have been a lot of changes within the Department.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Cunningham for the information and asked for roll call. After establishing that a quorum was present she then asked for the following:

Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Benn-James made a motion to accept the January 2023 minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

Chairperson Weatherspoon then opened the Public Hearing of the February meeting.

Public Hearing Items:

Land Use – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, February 3, 2023 virtually via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Pierre Albert, Lisa Atkinson, Princess Benn-James, Jacques Brunvil, Robert Callahan, Karen Gray, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema Jordan, Peter Krashes, Frances Langley, Dr. Sarah Lazur, Kwasi Mensah, Mimi Mitchell, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Jack Robinson, Kim Robinson, Gib Veconi, Elaine Weinstein, Deborah Young and 3 callers.

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

857 St. Marks Avenue –Application for A Certificate of Appropriateness

Janne Markowicz, applicant and Glenn Josey, a representative made a presentation to the committee for a full roof replacement. The property currently has a slate roof, and the applicant had presented to the Landmarks Preservation Committee a desire to use GAF slateline shingles to dramatically curtail the cost of the roof replacement. At the time of the initial contact with LPC prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, LPC had informed the applicant that they were not amenable to the use to the roofing materials other than the existing slate. Unfortunately, the cost estimate was quite prohibitive in the multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In an attempt to compromise with LPC's requirements, the applicant proposed the use of synthetic slate shingles, which LPC was amenable to so long as the shingles closely match the existing roof. Unfortunately, vendors capable of completing the order were hesitant because of the low quantity of shingles needed to complete the job. Sadly, during the delay of replacing the roof, water intrusion has now caused the chimney to fall into the dwelling, and the repair is now a dire emergency. The owner has now received notice that LPC staff cannot make a determination on an asphalt shingle, something that the homeowner had made an inquiry about two years ago.

The homeowners are not eligible for resources from the Historic Tax Credits to assist with funding the necessary repairs and maintaining use of slate shingles for the roof. As such, the Crown Heights North Association supported the applicant's use of the GAF slateline shingles.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the application based on the applicants' long term engagement with LPC, the risk that the current condition poses to their family and LPCs approval of particular materials submitted to LPC by the applicant. The motion was seconded by Nix Laemmler. Ethel Tyus made a friendly amendment to include the documentation from LPC and that the approved application be cited for the record. The committee voted 24 in in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Deviating from the written action item, Ms. Wedderburn provided additional details and background on the application. She stated that the applicant has been working with LPC for over 3 years now and still have not been able to get the approval for a slate alternative. The cost of the actual slate was in the 100s of thousands of dollars, and the special color that LPC demanded was not cost effective due to the fact that the applicant would not need the high quantity of shingles for the special order, which drove the costs up. In the time that the applicant first began dialogue with LPC, additional damage to the property has been done to the leaky roof, and family members' health has started failing. The need is for the Board to say it is "ok" for them to use the standard gray shingle.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community.

Mr. Veconi asked two questions. He stated that the committee report says that the slate tile would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the second page mentions a low quantity of tiles required, and asked for clarity on the specific issue. He was informed by the applicant that to get the special

color LPC demanded, they would not need as many tiles as the minimum necessary mandated by the manufacturer in order to complete the roof. The applicant stated that over-ordering the special color shingles would have been less expensive than the actual slate, but still not as affordable as the asphalt shingle. Mr. Veconi's second question had to do with the Certificate of No Effect that the applicant received a few years ago where they were ok with using the slate. He was informed that at that time, they were ok with using slate before they actually saw the prices, and in addition to that, the application for the CNE was only for the carriage house, and the need now is for two roofs, not just the one. As such, it is extremely cost prohibitive to use the slate. Even with the two roofs necessary, the minimum number of specialty colored tiles are still not needed. Following up, Mr. Veconi asked the applicant if they planned on doing any work on the carriage house. He was informed that the main house takes priority over the carriage house at this time because of the damage to the roof, the deteriorating chimney, water intrusion that damaged plaster work, and the fear of the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ms. Young spoke on behalf of the applicant, stating that too often we have applications where applicants ask for forgiveness because they did not go through LPC first. However, in this case, the applicant has been working laboriously with LPC and still do not have a resolution. Ms. Benn-James concurred, stating that she has never heard of a family receiving this type of treatment from LPC in all of her years as a CB8 member. The Board renders forgiveness all the time in situations where applicants do not even try to do the right thing. In this case, we have an applicant that is being refused resolution.

Dr. Lazar made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations as presented. Mr. Saunders seconded the motion and the vote carried with 26 in favor with 1 abstention and none against.

120 Kingston Avenue –Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness

Mr. Manesha Oya appeared on behalf of the owner as the project manager joined by Mr. Adam Kushner, the architect of record.

120 Kingston Avenue is currently a three-story mixed-use building located at the intersection of Kingston Avenue and Bergen Street, known to the community as "The Kingston Lounge." The property is designated in a R-6 property with a commercial overlay.

Using historical photos of the corner property, Mr. Oya sought to show that the property had evolved over time and looked at the present day properties as a source of inspiration for the design of the building he was presenting. The applicant's desire is to remove the commercial space on the ground floor and convert the building's use to full residential use. Additional to this conversion are a requirement for operable windows in the newly formed residential units.

Mr. Veconi brought to the applicant's attention a previous LPC application for the property in 2018 that had maintained the use of the building as mixed use, and also that maintained the historic features of the neon signage. He and several committee members also questioned the need to convert the mixed-use building to a strictly residential space, and why the applicant thought it was appropriate.

Because the property is under new ownership from the previous LPC application, Mr. Oyo explained that the new ownership would prefer to use the entirety of the building as residential, and that they would be creating something entirely new in the location.

Ms. Kelly Carroll, a community resident and preservationist who teaches a historic preservation course at NYU, shared her views of this application, stating that she had worked with CHNA in the past with

the building. She noted that between 2018 in which the neon sign was in good condition and present day where the neon sign has now been completely defaced and unsalvageable. Despite the tax photo that Mr. Oyo shared with the committee in which the first of its kind neon sign had not been installed, there existed ample documentation of the signage that remained viable and intact between 1944 when it was installed through 2018. Ms. Carroll also emphasized that the Kingston Lounge is a cultural landmark in the district, a unique African American landmark, whose destruction points to cultural erasure during Black History month.

Ms. Tyus specifically noted that the Kingston Lounge frontage was unique to the neighborhood in LPC's 2015 designation report. Mr. Atkins stated that the destruction of the sign and the deterioration of the building was by willful neglect.

Ms. Mitchell made a motion to deny the application, which was seconded by Deb Young. Ms. Tyus proposed an amendment that was rejected by the motion maker. The motion to deny the application carried with a final vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community.

Ms. Wedderburn and Mr. Atkins both reminded everyone that 120 Kingston Avenue has historically been used as a commercial building with distinctive details and cohesiveness with the other buildings on Kingston Avenue.

Mr. Ansari stated that Mr. Atkins called him regarding the project and the Assemblywoman's office did some digging into Co-Labs, which has several co-living locations worldwide with several in Brooklyn. It is a many layered enterprise that is quite troubling.

Several comments were made regarding transiency in the community and the removal of longevity to develop a sense of community. Ms. Tetreault acknowledged the very good points raised, but reminded the Board to retain its integrity with regards to the LPC application and keep the focus on only those aspects that LPC has jurisprudence over.

Ms. Mitchell stated that since the Land Use Committee meeting, she has discovered that LPC requires tangible direction rather than blanket denials for applications. As the original motion maker in committee, she stated that she would like to amend the motion before the Board to deny the application as presented, but also to give LPC the necessary guidance when they receive the application to keep the Board's vision in focus. She made a motion to withhold support for the application unless and until the following criteria are met:

- 1) Restore the streamline-style storefront with a brick bulkhead, a corner entrance with its historic aluminum door, aluminum ribbon windows, color-glass banding, and historic neon signs with cutout lettering. Located at the center of the Bergen Street facade was a historic ribbed aluminum surround, and although some of the storefront's features have been damaged or removed, it was the building's stand out feature.
- 2) Restore the main 120 Kingston Avenue entrance, (a/k/a 1300-1308 Bergen Street) Central main entrance on the Bergen Street facade with an aluminum surround and stone stoop: recessed western entrance on the Bergen Street facade with an aluminum soffit panel, containing an aluminum door with a round pane; black and red colored glass banding; aluminum-framed ribbon windows high brick bulkhead, which extends upward near the main entrance to meet the color glass banding; recessed corner store front entrance with metal post and aluminum door with

round pane cutout aluminum letters filled with neon tubing reading "KINGSTON LOUNGE" attached to a projecting sign band.

- 3) Create a viable waste management plan that respects the landmark designation requirements and meets LPC approval.
- 4) Retains the non-conforming ground floor commercial use, as has been 'grandfathered' in and by prior LPC documentation from at least 1944 to 2012, for an establishment along the lines of the Kingston Lounge, and does not permit ground floor residential use.

Mr. Veconi clarified for members that expressed confusion that the motion on the floor is a conditional denial pending the recommendations as presented by Ms. Mitchell being met. He also informed the Board that there was something in the 2017 application that required a different process for the building to bring the building to code as it does not have a commercial overlay, and that the commercial space was a nonconforming use.

Mr. Atkins offered a friendly amendment that the neon fluorescent lighting be LED or some other modern lighting. The amendment was rejected and was not seconded, so the original motion on the floor remain unchanged.

The motions was seconded by Mr. Mensah and passed unanimously with 27 in favor.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC) – Irsa Weatherspoon, Chair

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked Vice Chair Robert Witherwax to give the following report. Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met on Monday, February 6, 2023 via Webex Virtual Meeting platform. 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, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Mark Thurton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Sharon Wedderburn and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed a new liquor license application for Rize BK located at 137 Schenectady Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). Details of the application include:

- Full license
- Proposed hours of operation: 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday thru Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday and Friday, and 2 p.m. to 3 a.m. Saturday
- 9 tables with 31 seats, and one service bar with 12 seats
- Five televisions with sound
- Programming includes karaoke, live performances with acoustic instruments, DJ, jukebox, recorded music

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

- Establishment to close by 2 a.m. on Saturday
- Applicant to obtain licensed security

It hopes that the full board supports its recommendation. Ms. Weatherspoon asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lazar and carried with a vote of 26 in favor with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

Agency Responses to Capital and Expense Budget Requests FY24

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that this portion of the public hearing to gather comments on the agency responses to the FY 2024 Capital and Expense Budget requests. She explained that in September the Board submitted its Capital and Expense budget priorities and requests to the Mayor, the Office of Management and Budget, City Planning and the local Council members. These items were compiled from community input, committee recommendations, complaints and other city agencies. The Capital and Expense items were sent to all community board members and the general community for review prior to tonight's hearing. Tonight, we are holding this public hearing to gather comments on the agency responses to our budget requests. She asked everyone to hold their comments until all the items have been read. When making comments please indicate if the item is capital or expense and include the priority number. Comments were limited to three minutes each. She then asked the following community board members to read the budget requests and the agency response, Robert Callahan, Tamika Gibbs, Kimberly Watson, Audrey Taitt-Hall.

Mr. Callahan asked a blanket question, "what are we supposed to do with the agency response, "more information is needed from the community board?" He was asked what his concern was with the response, and he suggested that the Board's comment be to engage in dialogue with the agency to come to terms with what the Board needs to provide in order for the agency to respond fully to the request.

Mr. Veconi asked if Expense 7 and Expense 25 regarding composting are still germane as they seem to have been addressed.

Dr. Lazur, in reference to Expense 14, asked what it means when the response is that the agency will accommodate within existing resources? She asked if they are saying they are not going to change anything, or are they going to shift funds within the agency? She expressly stated that getting inspectors to come out in a timely manner is tough. With eviction cases, representatives need to be able to document issues, so if an inspector does not come out, it can be difficult to get the necessary evidence. She was informed that the Board's comment letter would ask for clarity to the response.

With regards to Expense 5, Mr. Atkins scoffed at the agency's response stating that the feasibility is obvious as there is trash spilling all over the street and because people ignore canine waste signs all the time.

Ms. Wedderburn asked is Capital 18 was for an additional comfort station as in her recollection, Councilwoman Mealy had funded it in her first stint with the Council. She was informed that it was only partially funded and additional funding is needed.

Regarding Expense 15, Mr. Mensah stated that CERT team members are always asked to clean the catch basins, so he was not aware that Sanitation and DEP did as well. Ms. George informed him that

the CERT team and Sanitation only clean the surface of debris, but DEP removes the grate and goes inside of it to clean it.

Ms. Gabriel bristled at the response for Expense 9, stating that it sounds false altogether, giving examples of on-shot deals and City PHEPS vouchers both falling under HRA. He further stated that the Dept. of Homeless Services' entire portfolio falls under HRA as well. Regarding Expense 23, he asked how much larger of a budget is needed so that the Board can advocate for it?

Ms. Granville stated that the Housing Advocacy Committee examined all of the housing needs related items and listed Expense 16 and Capital 9 as high priorities. She stated that despite understanding funding issues with NYCHA, it would behoove the agency to fund energy efficiency especially knowing that the power grid is failing. The agencies all have to do their part to be a solution to the growing problems in the city. Additionally, regarding Capital 2, small landlords need all the assistance they can get.

Mr. Gabriel asked if the Board could obtain copies of the agencies five-year plans to get a better sense of what we need to push for and how best to word request explanations.

Ms. Young made a motion to accept recommendations so that the Board can draft the Comment Letter on the Agency Responses. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muhammad and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Chairperson Weatherspoon closed the public hearing and asked for the following committee reports:

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Gabriel, Vice Chair reported that the Economic Development Committee will not meet for the month of February. The committee is working with Calabar Exports to host a job fair on May 19, 2023 on Franklin Avenue. The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 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 Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee met on January 24, 2023.

The following committee report was submitted:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL/SANITATION

- a. 6:15 PM by Zoom
- b. Attendees: Francoeur, Haegens, Harris-Blenman, Jacubczyk, Tetrault, Witherwax
- c. Topics discussed:
 - i. COMPOSTING
 1. New Bins arrived recently
 - a. Is there an opportunity to educate on use?
 - b. What is the metric for usage?
 - c. Smart phone needed – a barrier?
 2. Letter to DSNY drafted (Exh. A)
 - a. Thanks for public bins

- b. CB8 wants opt-in for brown bins
 - c. Ask for outreach
 - ii. CONTAINERIZED TRASH
 - 1. Draft framework: West 45th Street pilot
 - 2. Can we identify block association to participate in existing pilot?
 - iii. STREET SWEEPERS / ASP REFORM
 - 1. Inefficient use of resources
 - 2. Can we discuss w elected officials?
 - iv. OVERALL: reach out to CB8 office re:
 - 1. Bins: who at DSNY can we work with?
 - 2. Containerized Waste Pilot: can we participate?
 - 3. Sweeping: Supt Dueno
- 2. STREETS/TRANSIT
 - a. 7:00 PM by Zoom
 - b. Attendees: Francoeur, Gerber, Gray, Haegens, Harris-Blenman, Jacubczyk, Jordan, Krashes, Langley, Meehan, Ortiz-Joyner, Stern, Tan, Tetrault, Thurton, Tyus, Weatherspoon, Witherwax, Young*
 - c. Topics discussed:
 - i. BUS SERVICE
 - 1. Brooklyn Bus Map redesign is out: EST is reviewing (draft Memo attached, Exh. B)
 - 2. Outreach/process plan:
 - a. Community meetings (2/1 Aging Committee, 2/2 NYCT Workshop)
 - b. Accept written comments through 2/17
 - c. Feb EST meeting (2/21) vote on draft comments
 - d. Mar CB8 meeting (3/9) Full Board vote on draft comments
 - e. Final Plan out over summer 2023, another round of comments
 - 3. Specific Issues raised:
 - a. DY: MTA outreach / survey insufficient, digital only approach cuts out seniors
 - b. WM: Signs on buses (B69) regarding changes
 - c. FOJ: B65 links NYCHA residences
 - d. ET: no B45 on Sterling NYA to Rogers
 - e. AG: Look at hours as well – some overnight service curtailed
 - ii. CRASHES AND DATA
 - 1. Demonstration of Crashmapper and open data sources to prioritize intersections
 - 2. Will guide our requests for future safety improvements to intersections
 - 3. “double down” on DOT to complete work on Eastern Parkway
 - 4. Observations:
 - a. CT: a lot on St. Johns – “too much street”?
 - b. FOJ: Solution should not be to ban cars
 - c. DY: pedestrians and other street users bear some responsibility
 - d. WM: overzealous enforcement of low level offenses like jaywalking can have negative quality of life repercussions
 - e. KG: turning lanes and signalized turns need to be reviewed – are peds aware of delayed greens?

iii. LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

1. Draft letter circulated (Exh. C) for all local state and federal electeds calling for support for specific and general legislation including:
 - a. SAFE STREETS ACT (Albany)
 - b. Adams commitment to build 300 miles protected bike lanes and 150 miles of bus lanes
 - c. Support for MTA Micromobility SAP
 - d. Speed Cameras/Red light cameras at
 - i. St Johns between Rogers and New York
 - ii. Nostrand between Atlantic and Union
 - iii. Ebikes on Eastern Parkway sidewalks
2. Other suggestions:
 - a. License plate / registration enforcement
 - b. Home rule for cameras
 - c. Atlantic Avenue cameras
3. Revised letter to be circulated

3. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS:

- a. Immediate Action items can be done by subcommittee members and presented to the Full Committee on February 21, 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 brown bin composting to include CB8
 - c. request for containerized waste residential pilot
 2. Invite DSNY to CB8 EST meeting to discuss:
 - a. Street corner compost bins
 - b. sweepers
 - c. ASP
- 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. Continue evaluation of Brooklyn Bus redesign
 4. Draft correspondence to officials requesting:
 - a. Letter as described above
 - b. Safety treatments for most problematic intersections
 - c. Support for legislative measures
 - d. Reopening of closed subway entrances
 - e. Protected bike lane on Bedford
 - ii. Long Term Action:
 1. Study RPP – host a public forum?
 2. Participate in Atlantic Avenue project

*: Possibly incomplete list of attendees

The next meeting of the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday instead of the 4th Tuesday which will be February 21, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Health and Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on January 19, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the chair, Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kimberly Watson, Vice Chair, Aqsa Shahbaz, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack, Frances Langley, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kim Robinson, Kwasi Mensah and Nizjoni Granville.

No committee report was submitted, however, Ms. Watson mentioned that Brooklyn Cares Addiction Program has been asked to attend a future community board to discuss their plans for the site on Prospect Place. Ms. George stated that they have been invited to attend the April Community Board meeting.

Ms. Watson reminded everyone that February is Heart Health month and expressed how important it is to take care of your heart health. The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on February 16, 2023. They will have a presentation on diabetes awareness. All are welcomed to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Mimi Mitchell, Ethel Tyus, Frances Langley, Kim Robinson, Xeerxeema Jordan, Dr. Sarah Lazar, Alisha Messa, Michael Higgins, Theresa Ball, Tiffany Forte, Greg Todd and 2 callers.

Ms. Granville mentioned that the committee discussed the agency responses to our budget requests regarding housing. She is pleased to see that there are two items that had to do with DCP offering more training on land use. We all need to take advantage of when the trainings and information comes forward.

The next meeting of the Housing Committee will be held on March 8, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the chair, Glinda Andrews, present were: Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Ena McPherson, Frances Langley, Kim Robinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Nizjoni Granville, Karen Gray, Stephan M., Mark Thurton and 2 callers.

Ms. Brown-Henry reported that the committee discussed the capital and expense budget responses and was disappointed that most if not all of the requests were not funded. The committee also discussed meeting with the elected officials to strategize so that the funding comes from the electeds as well as the agency. Lincoln Terrace Park tennis court has received their lights. Members will be attending the Borough President's Eco Fair April 22nd. Friends of Brower Park are looking to get more lighting, and additional cameras in and around the park to facilitate community safety.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, January 23, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. via WebEx. In addition to the chair, Mark Thurton, present were: Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair, Marva Henry, Princess James, Tamika Gibbs, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Xeerxeema JordanJennifer Jordan, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson and Deputy Inspector Tony Brown (77th PCT).

In the absence of the chair, Ms. Brown-Henry gave the following report. She reported that the committee had a robust conversation with officials from the 77th about crime prevention. They suggested that we get packages delivered to a neighbor if we will not be home to accept the package or have them delivered to a drop off location. Criminals have come up with a new crime during tax season. They are pretending to be from the IRS demanding a payment. Please keep in mind that the IRS will not call you, will not email you or ask for payment via gift cards so please be aware and tell your family and friends of this new scam.

The committee submitted the following report:

Action items for committee members

- Mark/Marva (I can help w this too if you need it?) to do a letter to DA's office to request gun buyback
- Mark to connect DI Brown with the CB8 senior committee
- Mark to let housing and land use know about apt scams
- Mark to let economic committee know about the danger of leaving a car running outside businesses
- Can at least 1x community NCO officer join every week? I know there are several, I feel that is important since it's an excellent opportunity to understand what is going on at the street level. Can we ask for that? (Or rather, can we press for it?)

2022 Recap from Deputy Inspector Tony Brown

- Reducing gun violence was the main focus of 2022
- 20% increase in overall crime in 2022
- 7 areas are assessed - murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny (\$1K+), grand larceny auto
 - Reduction or flat - murder, rape
 - Increase in - felony assault, burglary, grand larceny, grand larceny auto
 - Package theft up 20% last year, 31% increase in grand larceny auto, 49% uptick in grand larceny, e bikes were a large portion of this, and car break ins.
 - Apartment scams are increasing as well
- Priorities always include youths, gun violence, and seniors
- Question: are there any plans for gun buyback? Answer: depends on DA's office, action item for the committee

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on February 27, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:00 pm. at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. In addition to the Chair, Gail Branch-Muhammad, present were: Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema, Jordan, Gilbert Perryman, Helen Selby, Patricia Washington, Deborah Young, Annabelle Boyd, Frances Langley, Robert Witherwax, Yvonne Bailey, Essie Spivey, Mary E. Williams, Gloria Freeman, Lorna Matthews, Sheila Davis, Theresa Milburn, Rosebud Woods-Thomas, Carrie Barfield, Christine James, Elisa Helligar, Helen McMurrin, Hellen Denman, Dorrell Mendonca, Cassey McFadden, Nathaniel Brown, Wixxie Rivers, Agnes Whitehurst, Mary Whitehurst, Bridget Duncan, Andre Drayton, Ethel Tyus, Shirley Mondesir, Raul Rothblatt, Cheryl Walcott, Robert LaPointe, Delores Hutchinson, Patsy Johnson, Heumie Huggins, Juliani B. Gloria Freeman, Dionne Padgett, Diane Wilson, Bernadette Williams, Michelle Morris, Carolyn Johnson, Joan Alexander, Arthur Bates, Angelo Johnson, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Patricia Montanez, June Laquevre, Rosalie Capland, Melina Bernardine, Clara Odom, Phyllis Grannum, Vashti Benthick, Linda Rago, Audra Brown, Claudette Ballistic, Estelle Rogers, Michael Hall, Sr., Olivia Avery, Yvonne Murray, Wallicia Hayes, Daisy Logan, Mary Bonham, AnaLuisa Garcia, Councilwoman Crystal Hudson, Jennie Armstrong, Mildred Smith, Myrna Clarke, Vivienne Smith, Elma Richardson, Hermina Small, Linda Ferrette, Alison Forde, Bryina Olivia Starks, Iva Webster, C. Reyes, Irsa Weatherspoon, Desmond Atkins, Michelle Tege, Ken Marable, Deputy Inspector Tony Brown, Det. Ruben Marte, PO Khalida Wallen, Michelle George and Julia Neale.

Ms. Muhammad thanked the seniors for getting involved and being advocates for change. They really spearheaded the bus presentation and petitions. She also thanked Mr. Witherwax for the excellent presentation that was made to the Senior Committee on the proposed changes to the bus routes in Community Board 8. He did such a great job, so much so that other boards are calling asking for copies of the presentation.

Mr. Witherwax explained the Community Board and the committees. The presentation covered the following:

Overview – What is Happening?

- Total overhaul of Brooklyn Bus network
- Begun pre-pandemic by New York City Transit (NYCT)
- Draft Plan dropped in November 2022
- Public workshops held online December 2022 through March 2023
- NYCT seeking comments on Draft Plan

Overview - Why is this happening?

- Bus ridership is low, and changes needed to restore this vital service
- Improvements needed:
- Frequency: Knowing that another bus is coming in X minutes
- Speed: buses have to be faster than walking
- Reliability: buses have to stick to the published schedule
- Connectivity: does the bus go where you want to go?
- Ease of Use: network is complex and hard to navigate

Overview - What are the changes?

- Decrease Wait Time/Increase Frequency:
- Not as simple as “run more buses”: factors such as # of buses, space at

depots

- Remove redundancies and consolidate parallel routes
- Decrease Travel Time/Increase Speed:
- More ‘bus priority’ options
- Fewer stops / stops more widely spaced
- Reliability:
- Avoid narrow streets
- Remove turns
- Shorten routes

Timeline - When is this happening?

- February 2: NYCT Workshop aimed at CB8
- February 21: CB8 EST Committee Meeting on Bus Redesign
- March 9: CB8 Full Board Meeting to Vote on Bus Redesign
- Over the Spring, NYCT will review comments
- Proposed Final Plan will follow summer/fall 2023

The topic for the next meeting of the Seniors Committee will be Women In History which will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcomed to attend.

Veterans – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Veteran’s Committee did not meet for the month of January, however, Ms. Granville mentioned that Community Boards 3, 8 and 16 have been discussing expanding their annual Veterans Appreciation Parade throughout Brooklyn and have the involvement of each community board. Congresswoman Clarke has been invited to the next meeting of the Veterans Committee which will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. All are welcomed to attend.

Youth and Education – Nora Daniel, Chair

In the absence of the chair, Ms. Brown-Henry reported that the Youth and Education Committee met on February 7, 2023 virtually via WebEx. In addition to the chair Nora Daniel, present were: Marva Brown-Henry, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, NeQuan McLean, Sharon Wedderburn, Mark Thurton and Terrance Johnson.

Mr. McLean made a presentation, he reported that it is election season at the Community Education Council (CEC). Parents and guardians can apply to join their local CEC to make decisions on schools, school policy and school environments. The deadline has been extended until February 23rd.

Ms. Brown-Henry mentioned that the committee is planning their annual Black History month Art Contest and are asking the community to volunteer as judges. They are also seeking recommendations on themes for this year. If you are interested, please let the district office know.

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committee’s for their reports and asked if there were any additional comments.

Mr. Mensah urged all homeowners to take advantage of the Department of Environmental Protection's insurance plan. He explained that he had a plumbing issue and the insurance covered that cost.

Ms. Garcia reminding everyone that the 1st Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan working groups series will be held on February 13th discussing Land Use, Density and Housing, February 15th Economic Development, Human Capital and Services, February 16th Street, Infrastructure, Open Space. For more information on the meetings, please visit www.nyc.gov/AtlanticAvenue or AtlanticPlan@planning.nyc.gov.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Guests Present

Lula Staton
Audra Brown
Lisa Maldonado
Rodney Seuymour
Edward Delman
Annie Beasley
Khloe Fuller
Arnold Carter
Brittney F.
Alisha M.
Jennifer Jordan
Janee Markowitz
Glenn Josey
Nathan Turner
Jonathan Allen
Conor Hassett
Dante Pilkin
Tiffany Forte
Pierre Albert
Cherita Frazier
Phyllis Grannum
Marcia Michael
Arna Lipkind
Diana Foster
Luckner Polycarpe