

**Community Board 8
General Community Board Meeting & Public Hearing
Via Webex Virtual Platform**

February 10, 2022

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Lisa Atkinson
Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Gerri Buchanan
Robert Callahan
Nora Daniel
Dian Duke
Andrea Ferris
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Marva Henry
Xeexema Jordan
Frances Langley
Sarah Lazur
Mireille Lemaine
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Kalvis Mikelsteins
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Celene Rosado
Adam Sachs
Brian Saunders
Mark Thurton
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Kiermoni Allison
John Buckholz
Aisha Dotson
Kevin Farley
Fred Frazier
Drew Gabriel
Regina Kinsey
Alicia Nosenzo
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Yves Vilus
Deborah Young

Elected Officials Present

Senator Jabari Brisport, 25th District
Assemblymember Stephani Zinerman, 56th District
Assemblymember Phara Soufrant-Forrest, 57th District
Councilmember Darlene Mealy, 41st Council District
District Leader Edu Hermelyn, 43rd Assem. District
District Leader Sarana Purcell, 43rd Assem. District

Agency & Elected Officials Representatives

Damaris Falero, Dept. of Buildings
Karen Chambers, Bklyn District Attorney's Office
Jonathan Marable, Bklyn Chamber of Commerce
Petula Hanley, Assemblymember Zinerman's Office
Melissa Wilson, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Rock Hackshaw, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Andrew Wright, Councilmember Hudson's Office

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the February general meeting of Community Board 8 and called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. She thanked everyone for their patience as District office staff resolved technical issues with the Webex meeting link.

She asked for a motion to accept the January minutes. Ms. George stated that one correction was called into the district office from the Seniors Committee. Ms. Muhammad moved that the full board accept the January minutes with the necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mikelsteins and accepted unanimously.

Chairperson Weatherspoon then asked for a roll call. After establishing that a quorum was present. She opened the floor to elected officials, elected official representatives, agency liaisons and public comments.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked Senator Jabari Brisport to say a few words.

Senator Jabari Brisport – 25th Senatorial District

Senator Brisport announced that the suspension of Open Meetings Law has an open ended date for when the suspension will be lifted. Instead of having a hard and fixed date for the end that would have to be extended, it will now end only when the governor declares the Covid State of Emergency over.

The Legislative body voted for and approved the proposed redistricting maps, and the new lines will be voted on in June. Congressional lines are changing significantly and Prospect Heights will now be represented by Jerry Nadler and Bobby Carroll. The Senate dividing line will be Atlantic Avenue. If you live in an area where your electeds will change due to the line changes, your current electeds will remain your electeds until December 31st, as the new lines go into effect on January 1st.

New York State budget negotiations are underway for the budget that is due on April 1st. By February 17th, all Assembly and Senate members need to submit their “big ticket” items and funding for discretionary items. Applications for discretionary funds are due by February 13th. The Senator stated that FAQs for discretionary funds are available on his website, he is accepting applications thru Sunday.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Senator Brisport for the update and invited Assemblywoman Phara Souffrant-Forrest to say a few words.

Assemblywoman Phara Souffrant-Forrest – 57th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Souffrant-Forrest offered greetings to everyone and stated that Senator Brisport has covered all of her key points. She believes that the budget should really be community driven. She would like to hear from the community. She also encouraged all community members and neighborhood organizations seeking discretionary funds to please submit their applications for consideration as soon as possible.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Assemblywoman Souffrant-Forrest and invited Assemblywoman Zinerman to say a few words.

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman – 56th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Zinerman stated that her office is currently getting ready for March, which is Disability Awareness Month. They are planning an inclusion event and in preparation, are creating a coalition on disabilities experts. This coalition needs members, so please consider joining and participating and being a voice for those that are sometimes voiceless.

Recently proposed in Assembly is an E-Bike Battery Bill. As a sponsor of the bill, the Assemblywoman stated that while she finds e-bikes to be a valuable transportation alternative, there are sometimes difficulties with finding adequate charging stations. There have been 173 fires caused by e-bike charging with 7 fatalities. The legislation requires that retailers must give guidance in 7 common languages, making sure that warnings are legible and visible in an understandable font. Additionally, we need to make sure that landlords provide riders with guidance about charging e-bike batteries. She stressed that this legislation is not an anti e-bike bill, but rather one that encourages operating e-bikes safely and without risk of unnecessarily causing damage to the home.

In honor of Black History Month, her office is putting together a “video love letter” to the black community. If you would like to participate, send a short video of 45 seconds or less about what you love about being black. The theme for black history month this year is black health and wellness. Video’s can be sent to petula@zinermanfor56ad.com.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Assemblywoman Zinerman for her update and asked Councilwoman Darlene Mealy to say a few words.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy- 41st Council District

Councilwoman Mealy announced that she is back in the City Council after sitting out one term. She stated that her district office is open and ready to serve the community. They are located at 400 Rockaway Avenue between Pitkin and East New York Avenues.

Councilwoman Mealy stated that her office hosts a food pantry and PPE giveaway every Wednesday from 11 am to 2pm at her district office. Fresh and non-perishable foods, as well as face coverings and Covid-19 testing kits will be available for distribution. On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Borough President Antonio Reynoso will be on hand to assist with the giveaway.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Councilwoman Mealy for the update and asked District Leader Edu Hermelyn to say a few words.

District Leader Edu Hermelyn – 43rd Assembly District

District Leader Hermelyn announced that there will be a public forum this coming Monday for the vacant seat in the 43rd Assembly District. Details will be emailed to the district office for distribution.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked District Leader Hermelyn for the information and asked District Leader Sarana Purcell to say a few words.

District Leader Surana Purcell – 43rd Assembly District

District Leader Purcell announced that she will be hosting her monthly virtual Fireside Chat on Sunday, February 27, 2022 from 7-8pm via Zoom all are welcomed to attend. For more information and to rsvp email Surana@BkDistrictLeader.com. You can also receive information for their weekly pop-up food distribution locations. She is also seeking community members to participate on the county committee.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked District Leader Purcell for the information and opened the floor to the Public Hearing on Committee Action Items.

Public Hearing

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

Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met virtually on Monday, February 7, 2022 via Webex. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair, Dian Duke, Brian Saunders, Celene Rosado, Deborah Young, James Ellis, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Gib Veconi, Tamika Gibbs, Kiermoni Allison, Gail Muhammad, Robert Puca, Sharon Wedderburn, Mark Thurton, Roger Myers, Mimi Mitchell, Eugene Pilman, Jackie Cuscuna, Joe Campanale, PO Vidal, L. Kim Robinson, Michael Cox, Karen Gray, Oliver Hardt, Richard Muzio, Natalie (Savannah Café) and Sam Clarke.

The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSES:

Lalou, 581 Vanderbilt Avenue [Pacific/Dean Streets]– Full (patio/deck, recorded music)

- Establishment in existence for 2.5 years in CB8
- 10 tables with 30 seats and another 13 seats at one bar
- Hours of Operation - Noon to 2 AM daily
- Outdoor backyard patio seating with 8 tables and 24 seats, operating from Noon to 11 PM daily; additional open street seating space with 5 tables and 10 seats (2 tables and 4 seats on sidewalk; 3 tables and 6 seats in freestanding covered structure)

Cas West Indian, 135 Kingston Avenue [Bergen Street/St. Marks Ave] –Beer/wine/cider

- Hours of Operation - 7 AM to 11 PM daily
- Establishment in existence over 30 years in CB8
- Small interior eating space with no outdoor seating, and 3 total service employees

ALTERATION APPLICATION:

Muse, 689 Washington Avenue [corner Prospect Place] – Full (no MOO’s listed other than recorded music) The alteration involves the addition of space in the amount of 11’8 by 14’10, adding 4 tables with 2 seats at each and a booth waiting area seating 4.

- Establishment in existence for 5 years in location
- 11 tables with 22 seats
- Enclosed street seat sidewalk café seating for the corner property with seating on both Washington Avenue and Prospect Place with 6 tables and 24 seats between the spaces
- Both interior and exterior spaces close before 10:30 PM daily

NEW APPLICATION:

The Social, 816 Washington Avenue (Corner St. John’s Pl) – Wine, beer, cider (recorded music, live music, video/arcade games, sidewalk café)

- Hours of Operation - Noon to 10 PM on Sunday; 1 PM to 10 PM Monday thru Thursday; 1 PM to 11 PM Friday and Saturday
- 11 tables with 44 total seats
- No outdoor seating

The committee voted unanimously to approve all four applications as presented in the hopes that the full Board support its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, she then asked for any comments or questions from the community board members. Hearing none, Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion. Mr. Atkins made a motion that the full board support the committee’s recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs and carried with a vote of 32 in favor, zero against with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 via WebEx.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that this concludes the Public Hearing on committee action items. She asked for the following committee reports.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:10 pm via FreeConferenceCall.com and submitted the following report:

In addition to the Chair, Gail Branch-Muhummad, present were: Regina Kinsey, Vice Chair, Andrea Ferris, Secretary, Annabelle Boyd, Mary Buynam, Loretta Fisher, Norma Glover, Brenda Green, Faye Jones, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema Jordan, Sharon Joseph, Frances Langley, Mildred Smith, Essie Spivey, Lula Staton, Patricia Washington, Vilma Zuniga, Nizjoni Granville, Hon. Diana Richardson, and Glinda Andrews.

The committee welcomed Councilmember Crystal Hudson, 35th District and stated that she was once a member of Community Board 8 and used to sit on the Senior Committee. Crystal took care of her mother who had Alzheimer’s disease and she is very passionate about senior issues. Councilmember Crystal Hudson thanked Gail Branch-Muhammad for the warm welcome. She stated that she is elated to be the Councilmember of District 35 and she and her team are ready and will be discussing and taking action on issues relating to the Senior Citizens of New York City. Council Member Hudson will make sure the

Quality Healthcare Literature gets mailed to Community Board 8 to distribute to the seniors. Councilmember Hudson's Temporary Office is located at 55 Hanson Place Suite 778, the telephone number is 718-260-9191.

Parks Committee Chair – Glinda Andrews stated that last month, the Martin Luther King program was a great event, it was a good turn out.

Black History Month – Weeksville played an important part in Brooklyn, in the 1800 it was the first black community in Crown Heights. In 1855, over 520 free African Americans lived in Weeksville including some abolitionists and prominent black professionals. The homes were called Hunterfly Road Houses. The current Weeksville Heritage Center is named after James Weeks. The original Hunterfly Road Homes (which have been renovated) are next to the Weeksville Heritage Center which offers tours of the Hunterfly Road Homes. Chair Gail Branch-Muhammad will have Community Board 8 mail out the brochure to the seniors.

Please keep getting tested to stay safe; although you're vaccinated you can still get Covid 19. There is a testing site on the corner of Eastern Parkway and Bedford Avenue. It is advised to go to the City of New York testing sites/buses and vans.

KN95 masks are available for free from the Federal Government at CVS/Walgreens. Covid testing kits are also being sent from the Federal Government to your homes.

Ms. Nizjoni Granville received an email from the NYPD Warning: Please do not accept masks from strangers on the street or at your homes. It is a scam.

Free Food Distribution every Wednesday at 9:00 am - Hebron Seventh Day Adventist Church
1256 Dean Street Corner of New York Avenue. (Different companies distribute)

Galentines Day – Do something with your friends. Not always with a male counterpart, many are enjoying this day with their girlfriends, daughters, etc.

Ms. Diana Richardson, Deputy Brooklyn Borough President stated that her seat in the 43rd Assembly District is vacant, a special election will be coming, please pay attention for the details and the people who will be running.

Mr. Meredith Staton is in rehab after breaking his ankles on both sides. He is in Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation and Nursing Center located at 727 Classon Avenue between Park Place and Prospect Avenue–Room 305N. He is in good spirits and welcomes visitors. They are doing free Covid Tests in the lobby for visitors to enter to visit the residents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via conference call.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, February 4, 2021 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Greg Todd, Vice Chair, Dorothy Bembry-Guet,

Emily Kennedy, Tamika Gibbs, Jack Robinson, Julia Boyd, Marva Brown-Henry, Karen Gray and Mark Thurton.

Ms. Andrews stated that the committee report will be submitted to the district office at a later date. She stated that St. John's Recreation Center is offering a Saturday midnight basketball program for ages 14-24. The program will operate from 4pm-midnight. More details will be given at a later date.

She also stated in celebration of the anniversary of Earth day there will be several events held at Brower Park on April 22-24. More information will be given at a later date.

Mr. Todd gave an update on the Parks Committee survey. The committee sent out a six question survey requesting information to help them connect with Parks, Playgrounds and Community Gardens in community board 8. To date only 11 surveys have been submitted. He encouraged all members and the community at large to please fill out a survey to assist the committee.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton reported that the Public Safety Committee met virtually on Tuesday, January 24, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Mark Thurton, present were: Assistant District Attorney Joseph Bianco, Xeerxeema Jordan, Brian Saunders, Christine Champagne, Desmond Atkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Igenie Harris-Blenman, Hazina Alladin, Tamika Gibbs, Janet Collins, Jennifer Jordan, Juanita Harris, PO Vidal, Kevin Kuntz, Lisa Atkinson, Kim Robinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Miguel Collazo, Princess Benn-James, Nizjoni Granville, Karen Gray, Rajan Cutting, Kevin Smith, Daryl Rock and Sharon Wedderburn.

He reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings at all times because crime is on the rise throughout the city.

The committee heard presentations from Mr. Kevin Smith, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted. Several representatives from Homeland Security spoke on human trafficking and Assistant District Attorney Joseph Bianco answered about 15 questions from the community. Police Officer Vidal from Crime Prevention gave a brief update from the 77th Precinct.

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2022. All are invited to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Acting Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, February 9, 2021 via Webex. In addition to the Acting Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Mimi Mitchell, Jennifer Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, L. Kim Robinson, Princess Benn-James, Robert Puca, Sarah Lazur and Yahya Raji.

The committee discussed the difficulty people are experiencing getting through to various city offices for help. It was stated that some of the issues are due to Covid and the transition of the newly elected

administration. Ms. Robinson former Councilmatic Aide advised the committee to reach out to their local elected officials who may be able to assist by navigating through the red tape.

The committee discussed creating a handbook with helpful information for tenants. They also discussed utilizing the worst landlords list created by Attorney General James to reach out to the owners expressing the concerns and conditions that tenants are experiencing. Also reach out to the tenants to let them know that we are aware of their problems and would like to keep up with their cases and assist in any way.

The next meeting of the Housing Advocacy Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Environment, Sanitation and Transportation – Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax reported that the Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee met virtually on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Robert Witherwax, present were: Mark Thurton, Vice Chair, Xeerxeema Jordan, Carey Tan, Celeste Stern, Desmond Atkins, Ethel Tyus, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Igenie Harris-, Janet Collins, Jennifer Jordan, Julia Boyd, Karen Gray, Peter Krashes, Rashida Richardson, Darryl Rock, Saskia Haegens, Shelli Conen and William Meehan.

He stated that the committee is booming with 25 members and they can always use more. If you are concerned about the environment, sanitation or transportation issues come out and join us. At the next meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the committee will hear reports from the sub-committees who are hard at work exploring topics and issues like rats, illegal dumping, sanitation protocols, rules of the road, additional ADA compliant subway stations, and the stop the chop helicopter movement. All are welcomed to attend.

Ms. Tyus asked for the sub-committee meeting dates. Mr. Witherwax stated that he did not have them handy but will get them to her. Ms. Collins asked what has been done so far with the sub-committees. He stated that the committees are working on draft letters.

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on February 8, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Brian Saunders, present were: Drew Gabriel, Secretary, Celene Rosado, Lisa Atkinson, Kalvis Mikelsteins, Emma Goodman, Garrett Smith, L. Kim Robinson, Karen Gray, Mark Thurton, Sunny Jo and Yahya Raji and submitted the following report:

Mr. Kalvis Mikelsteins attended a webinar hosted by CAMBA on small business services and provided the following information. New York State Small Business Recovery Grant from CAMBA Webinar Jan 25, 2022. This is not the resilience grant, this is a new grant. 800M available, \$400M given out already. These grants do not have to be paid back.

Eligibility requirements:

- In business since 2019
- Show a gross receipt from 2019 between \$25K and \$2.5M

- Receiving pandemic unemployment assistance adds to your gross receipt
- Strictly enforced limits (anecdotally by presenter; someone they know made \$24,960 and was denied)
- Have to claim profit (at least 1\$)
- Must Show loss of 25% or more in 2020 pandemic

Also:

- Sole proprietors qualify with their social
- Owners can apply for multiple businesses they own

Other Grant Implications:

- PPP: If you got less than \$250K or more, you do qualify
- EIDL: if you received \$10K or less, you do qualify
- EIDL supplemental grant: If you received \$5K or less, you do qualify
- If you received the SBA Shuttered venue operator grant you do not qualify

Qualifying Amounts:

\$25,000-\$49,000- receive \$5,000

\$50k-\$99k- receive \$10,000

\$100,000-\$2.5M- receive 10% of your gross, but not exceeding \$50,000

Use 2019 gross receipts to determine the amount

Can be used for payroll, past due expenses, local taxes, insurance costs, utility costs, PPE, HVAC, equipment, machinery, supplies necessary to follow COVID Protocols, rent, mortgage, ***No prepayment *** (This is much more flexible than PPP, which was entirely just for payroll)

Documents Necessary

Proof of business organization- One of the following:

- Current business license
- Current business certificate
- Certificate of organization
- Certificate of assumed name (DBA)
- Articles of Incorporation
- NYS municipality issued document showing authorization to operate in NYS

Proof of business location

- Lease
- Utility bill
- Business bank statement
- Business Credit Card statement

Proof of Ownership

- Schedule of ownership for multiple owners
- Proof of number of employees (NYS-45) (if you have employees)
- W9 and bank information for fund distribution

Application Location: <https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/> or Google: New York Small business recovery, look for the NYS logo. Grant works best with google chrome. Phone Hotline available as well. The deadline is April Or Mary of 2022.

Emma Goodman, Sunny Jo and Garret Smith, a part of The Clean Slate NY campaign provided an overview of the work they are doing. The Clean Slate NY campaign is fighting for a new law ([S1553A/A6399](#)) that will automatically clear a New Yorker's conviction record once they become eligible. The civil damage a conviction record can inflict is often wide-ranging and enduring—permanently barring many individuals from basic opportunities like stable jobs, licenses to practice trades, and safe, secure housing. Clean Slate NY is about strengthening our communities by ensuring that New Yorkers are not punished beyond their sentences and can be full and fair participants in economic and civic life. <https://www.cleanslateny.org/steering-committee>

In the Q&A portion of the presentation Celene (from Sweet Brooklyn) asked if there would be new language for job applications for employers if this legislation passes. Emma Goodman responded that there are already laws in place that do not allow employers to ask criminal past questions. Drew asked how we as a community board can support the campaign? Sunny Jo provided the steering committee link and a template for a sign on letter.

They announced a Clean Slate event February 27th at Brooklyn commons. Lisa Atkinson asked who qualifies for this event. Sunny Jo explained that anyone with a misdemeanor after 3 years past and a felony after 7 years has passed qualifies to participate in the event.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Mr. Saunders invited everyone to attend and bring one person with you.

Land Use – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

Ms. Wedderburn reported that the Land Use Committee met virtually on Thursday, February 3, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Pierre Albert, Andrew Wright, Mimi Mitchell, Xeerxeema Jordan, Carey Tan, Deborah Young, Emily Yuan-Liu, Elaine Weinstein, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Gib Veconi, Arlene Gillin, Janet Collins, Irsa Weatherspoon, Jennifer Jordan, Yoel Teitelbaum, Kim Robinson, May Vtrapongvatana, Kwasi Mensah, Princess James, Nizjoni Granville, Nix Laemmle, Jack Robinson, Nora Daniel, Karen Gray, Peter Krashes, Robert Callahan, Robert Puca, and Sarah Lazar and submitted the following report:

There were no Action Items for this meeting. Chair Wedderburn led a general discussion about the committee and its work. She began the meeting by saying that she wanted the committee to use a meeting with no Action Items as an opportunity to have a discussion among members about the committee's function.

Discussion items included: Prioritizing Department of City Planning approval of MCrown, this has been a multi-year endeavor of the committee. The absence of approval of MCrown would mean that the committee would have to continue with project by project discussion of proposed development in the approval of this neighborhood rezoning would support the committee's role in providing guidance to ULURP.

Comments and Questions from Committee Members:

Jack Robinson queried about the chat function for Land Use meetings since we have a new chair. Ms. Wedderburn noted that Chair Weatherspoon had discussed this matter in two meetings prior that the chat function would be disabled for the Land Use committee and the SLAC committee per board members requests so that all attendees could focus on the discussion items before the committee. As such, Ms. Wedderburn noted that there would be no change in that policy under her leadership for the Land Use committee.

Mr. Veconi noted that Transportation Alternatives publicly floated a plan for Atlantic Avenue without meeting with CB8. The EST committee will invite Transportation Alternatives to a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Youth & Education – Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Daniel reported that the Youth and Education Committee met virtually on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Nora Daniel, present were: Marva Brown-Henry, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Xeerxeema Jordan, Sharon Wedderburn, Jennifer Jordan, Jack Robinson, Julia Boyd, Kim Robinson, Mark Thurton, Laurel Degrosa and Lt. Marte from the 77th Precinct.

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the details of the young artists Black History Month Art Contest. Artists in grades Pre-K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 should submit photos of their art work under the theme, “Beauty in my Community” to express what they see and love within the confines of District 8.

The participants will be divided into several different age groups. The committee is looking to partner with small businesses and local organizations for the prizes. Submissions are due by February 28, 2022 via email at CB8BHMArtContest@gmail.com. Winners will be chosen by members of the Youth and Education Committee and announced at the March 10th Community Board General Meeting. The committee needs community board members to volunteer to assist with judging the artwork. The judging will take place on March 1st. Please email the board office if you are interested in volunteering.

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

Ms. Gibbs reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met virtually on Thursday, January 20, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kimberly Watson, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Frances Langley, Concessa Joseph, Keisha Gilles, Kim Robinson, Kwasi Mensah, and Dr. M. Augenbraun.

The committee heard a very informative presentation from Dr. Augenbraun from Kings County Hospital Infectious Diseases unit. He stated that he has been a physician for 30 years. He started his career at Kings County during the height of the AIDS pandemic and he will end his career with the Covid 19 pandemic. He discussed the various infectious diseases and all things Covid.

Ms. Gibbs mentioned that the Fire Department has confirmed their attendance for the February 17, 2022 meeting to discuss fire safety. All are welcomed to attend and to bring a friend.

Veterans – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville stated that the next meeting of the Veterans Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. In addition to the Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall and Tamika Gibbs.

She reminded everyone that you do not have to be a veteran to attend. Everyone is welcome to attend to help find ways to assist the veterans in our community. The committee discussed social security benefits and urged everyone to sign up to get updates regarding social security.

Ms. Granville stated that she attended the Veterans Committee meeting of Community Board 3. They are in the process of planning the next veterans parade which will be held on the Saturday before Veteran's day.

The next meeting of the Veteran's Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their committee reports. She reminded committee chairs to submit committee reports/minutes to the district office immediately after their meeting is held.

She asked if anyone had any questions, comments or announcements.

Ms. Damaris Falero from the Dept. of Buildings reminded property owners that they must file their gas line inspection. Additionally, please feel free to contact her office with any issues or concerns at dfalero@buildings.nyc.gov or 718-802-2236.

Ms. Karen Chambers from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzales's office announced that the DA will be hosting his annual Black History Month celebration on February 22nd. While there is no flyer yet, one will be sent to the district office for distribution.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked those that provided announcements and opened the floor for old business/new business.

Regarding Old Business, Mr. Kwasi Mensah followed up on his request from the previous month about television and radio commercial PSAs about closing the door behind you in a fire. Ms. Henry responded stating that information is being distributed as she received in the mail a New York City Apartment Building Emergency Preparedness guide which is she finds really helpful if you live in an apartment building. Mr. Mensah reiterated that it is imperative to have radio and television adverts as it is easy for people to ignore print but not necessarily radio and television.

Ms. Petula Hanley from Assemblywoman Zinerman's office stated that on behalf of the Assemblywoman, she has attended quite a few meetings about fire safety, and thus recognizes that the FDNY is doing its best to get the word out about fire safety. She also stated that Assemblywoman Zinerman hosted a Fire Safety Zoom last week. Mr. Mensah repeated that the reliance on people to attend

meetings does not outweigh the reach of radio and television adverts.

Ms. Ferris also stated that she has received flyers from her management regarding fire safety.

Ms. Gibbs announced again that the next Health Committee meeting which will be held next week will have a full presentation from the FDNY regarding fire safety. She urged everyone to attend.

Ms. Muhammad asked for any council updates on today's hearings regarding Open Restaurants. Ms. Tyus stated that she heard it was approved. Mr. Todd stated that wood structures have to be removed so that streets can be cleaned at night.

Mr. Jonathan Marable from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce stated that New York City is offering a small business grant, the NYC Small Business Resilience Grant, to businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible businesses can receive \$10,000 to help with expenses such as payroll and benefits, mortgage, rent, utilities, and other operating costs. To see eligibility requirements and to apply for the grant, you can go to <https://covidresilience.nyc/> If anyone has any questions or needs assistance, please reach out Jonathan Marable Business Recovery Specialist Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce 253 36th Street, Suite 4-C58 Brooklyn, NY 11232 M: (516) 900-5789 E: jmarable@brooklynchamber.com W: www.brooklynchamber.com.

Ms. Muhammad asked if anyone was on the meeting from 920 Park Place. Ms. Tyus stated that a number of parking violations, using open space on roadway for staff rather than open space on property. Substantial concerns of damage to street trees due to lax protection. Neighbors still considering legal action via article 78.

Chair Weatherspoon stated that District Manager George has reached out to the Site Manager, Lance Franklin to schedule a community meeting to discuss the community concerns. We are awaiting a response. Ms. Tyus asked if the local neighbors will be allowed to attend. Ms. Weatherspoon stated yes, the community will be invited.

Under New Business, Mr. Arnold Gore, a community resident, read a letter documenting his dissatisfaction with proliferation of smart meters, which relies on wifi internet that exposes people to health effects from radio waves. There is an opt-out clause against a smart meter, but utilities may charge a fee. The preference is moving away from a default opt-out and rather adopting an "opt-in." This legislation has been sponsored by Kevin Parker. Additionally, Mr. Gore stated that there are better alternatives to smart meters and wireless technology in general. While wireless is convenient, it is slower and less safe due to its easy ability to be hacked, and also due to the residual damage the wireless can do to the human body and mind.

Mr. Atkins responded to Mr. Gore's grievances and stated that the concerns sound very familiar to the fight against 5G, and announced that Mr. Gore raised several very valid points. He agreed that wireless technology and smart appliances are very intrusive things, but sadly, there is not enough public outcry to stop it.

Ms. Collins asked are these the meters that Con Edison wants to install in our homes. Mr. Gore replied yes, many people overlook the Con Edison request to opt out until it is too late.

Lastly, Mr. Gore stated that the very high intensity of the pulsed wave fields from smart meters is documented in this video on the website of newyorkers4wiredtech.com/media

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Gore for the information. With no further issues to be addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

She then asked if there was any old business to finish up or any new business. Hearing none, she thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Guests Present

AGG-DH Legal
Arnold Gore
Darlene Nelson
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Edward Grant
Eugene Pilman
Erin Cummings
Gene Goldstein-Plesser
Jackie Cuscuna
Jennifer Jordan
Mackenzie Graham
Matt Stocked Bklyn
Karen Gray
Tammy Meadows
Richard Stazesky
Tiffany Forte
Michelle Tege
3472****73
3473****71
6464****04
6464****94