

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

**March 10, 2022**

**Members Present**

Kiermoni Allison  
Glinda Andrews  
Lisa Atkinson  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Robert Callahan  
Nora Daniel  
Dian Duke  
Drew Gabriel  
Tamika Gibbs  
Nizjoni Granville  
Igenie Harris-Blenman  
Marva Henry  
Xeexema Jordan  
Frances Langley  
Sarah Lazur  
Mireille Lemaine  
Kwasi Mensah  
Fior Ortiz-Joyner  
Robert Puca  
Yahya Raji  
Celene Rosado  
Adam Sachs  
Brian Saunders  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Mark Thurton  
Greg Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young  
Vilma Zuniga

**CB 8 Staff**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

**Members Absent/Excused**

Desmond Atkins  
Gerri Buchanan  
John Buckholz  
Aisha Dotson  
Kevin Farley  
Andrea Ferris  
Fred Frazier  
Regina Kinsey  
Elaine Mahoney  
Kalvis Mikelsteins  
Alicia Nosenzo  
Meredith Staton  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Kimberly Watson

**Elected Officials Present**

Councilmember Chi Osse, 36<sup>th</sup> Council District  
District Leader Sarana Purcell, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assem. District

**Agency & Elected Officials Representatives**

Anderson Fils-Aime, Senator Myrie's Office  
Stephanie Grandpierre-Safe Horizon  
Jonathan Marable, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Karen Chambers, Bklyn District Attorney's Office  
Jonathan Marable, Bklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Petula Hanley, Assemblymember Zinerman's Office  
Jack Plushnick, Councilmember Mealy's Office  
Orlando Ross, Congresswoman Clarke's Office  
Andrew Wright, Councilmember Hudson's Office  
Justin Freeman, Assemblymember Soufrant-Forrest's Office  
Dr. Raymond Codrington, Weeksville Heritage Center  
Tony Herbert, Mayor's Office-CAU  
Malcolm McDaniel, Mayor's Office - CAU  
Alicia Prichard, Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the March general meeting of Community Board 8 and called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

She asked for a motion to accept the February minutes. Mr. Saunders moved, that the full board accept the February minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lazar 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.

Chairperson Weatherspoon acknowledged the elected officials present and invited Councilmember Chi Ossé to say a few words.

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

Councilmember Ossé announced that he still hosting Wellness Wednesdays at Restoration Plaza from 11 AM to 1 PM or whenever supplies run out. Vendors are welcomed as are volunteers, and if you want a table to distribute information or desire to volunteer, please call his office at 717-919-0742.

He also announced that as the Chairperson of the Cultural Affairs and International Affairs Committee, he will be seeking to partner with libraries on book giveaways and other culturally related events. These events will occur as the weather gets warmer.

The Councilmember informed the Board that he introduced a bipartisan bill with a Republican co-sponsor that would require nightlife establishment operators to train in giving Narcan shots and keep it in stock with their first aid kits. He explained that Narcan is a drug used on victims of overdose to save their lives, and consequently, this bill will go a long way in preventing opioid overdose deaths. He concluded that it is a bill designed to save lives, and hence the bipartisan support.

Sadly, over the last 10 weeks, greater than 95% of constituent concerns have been pertaining to housing. The issues range anywhere from negligent landlords to predatory real estate brokers involved in deed theft. As such, his office will be hosting housing attorneys beginning in April to answer constituent questions about their housing issues. Attorneys will be from CUNY and Churches United for Fair Housing.

On his birthday, March 18th, there will be a Fire Safety event at Restoration Plaza located at 1368 Fulton Street on the 3rd Floor, held in conjunction with Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman. Councilmember Ossé informed the Board that the fire safety event is the first item in a comprehensive fire response plan currently being devised by his office. The plan includes synthesizing fire investigation reports and correlating data from other agencies across the city.

The Councilmember announced that in preparation of tax season, his office is hosting a virtual Tax Workshop on March 28th for tax season. The workshop, which occurs 3 weeks before the tax deadline, will inform filers of changes to tax laws for working individuals. Finally, in partnership with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, his office will be hosting a series of rat academies for businesses and residents alike to learn how to be better neighbors with each other, and also to reduce the rodent population.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilmember Ossé for his detailed report and stated that she recently contacted the District Attorney's office with regards to fraud and theft, and that she would be in contact with his office as well. She then opened the floor to elected officials representatives.

**Mr. Andrew Wright** from Councilmember Crystal Hudson's office announced that the Councilmember's office recently hosted NYS Governor Kathy Hochul for a walking tour of Vanderbilt Avenue businesses. Merchants discussed many of the issues they faced during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and some that they continue to experience present day. Additionally, the Councilmember visited St. Francis College about the guns for grants program, which allows people to go to college for free if they submit a gun.

The Councilmember recently held a meeting with the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to discuss the closure of Willoughby Avenue Open Streets. During the meeting, it was announced that DOT will sponsor weeks long survey to gather feedback on open streets, and the Councilmember's office volunteered to oversee distribution of the survey to ensure that it reaches a wide array of people, including those that might not have access to google forms or online surveys.

As a result of the meeting and the community discord over a popular Open Streets being ended without community input, Councilmember Hudson is presently working on a bill that would require notification of the Councilmember, affected Community Board, and other local community organizations about any changes to Open Streets.

Mr. Wright also announced that the Councilmember is seeking suggestions to place 50 garbage cans throughout the 35th Council District. Please submit specific locations on busy commercial corridors for review. All responses will be due by April 8, 2022.

Finally, on March 22nd, the Councilmember will host an info session on dog runs in response to the interest and the number of requests from community residents in CB8. The session will focus on requirements to install one, the definition of a dog run, what a "Friends" group is and how to start one amongst other things.

**Ms. Petula Hanley** from Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman's office wished all of the phenomenal women on the meeting a Happy Women' month. She announced that it is a busy time of the year for the Legislature as the state legislatures work to pass a fair budget. NYS Governor Kathy Hochul recently held a meeting at Therapy One Bar in Bed Stuy to discuss some of the changes within the NYS Liquor Authority. These changes will directly affect downstate liquor license holders.

Ms. Hanley reiterated the Fire Safety event being held in conjunction with Councilmember Ossé. She stated that this event has come at a time when the 56th Assembly District has never seen so many deadly fires in such a short span of time. There have been greater than 11 fires from January 1st to present day, including three fatalities, and possibly five depending on the cause of death for two additional fatalities. Consequently, the goal is to educate as many individuals as possible to prevent deadly fires. All are encouraged to participate in the session and share information.

On Saturday, March 26th at 11 AM, Disability Advocacy Day will be held at Boys and Girls High School. At this event, the goal is to dissect the needs of those with disabilities in terms of transportation, access, education, etc. Additionally, we cannot forget those with invisible disabilities. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Mr. Orlando Ross** from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office announced that the previous day,

Congresswoman Clarke was able to secure \$17 million for community projects in the 9th Congressional District. Projects to be funded include many related to matters of health including funds for the Cure Violence Center in Brownsville, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and Interfaith Medical Center.

**Mr. Justin Freeman** from Assemblymember Phara Souffrant-Forest's office announced that the Assemblymember is assisting with finalizing the Assembly House Budget to be presented to the Governor. The Assembly's budget will likely include a few of Assemblywoman Souffrant's top priorities, including fair pay for homecare workers.

On March 19th, volunteers will perform on an outreach canvas in the community to see who needs help. One group of volunteers will knock on doors and speak to constituents, and another group of volunteers will be on the back end working to help resolve constituent cases. There have been several other canvasses in recent months and they have been impactful, especially in determining that housing concerns are some of the biggest issues that people have been contending with as espoused by Councilmember Ossé. So far, the canvasses have been successful in connecting people to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, building tenants association, building collective community power, etc.

Finally, the office is partnering with Grow Brooklyn to offer free tax prep services. To schedule an appointment, call 347-682-5606 or visit [www.growbrooklyn.org/appointments](http://www.growbrooklyn.org/appointments).

**Mr. Tony Herbert** announced that he has been appointed as the Brooklyn North Director of the Mayor's Office Community Assistance Unit (CAU). He stated that he and Mr. McDaniel will be working closely together to help handle CB8's issues. Mr. Herbert stated that he is no stranger to CB8, briefly listing many of the Board's officials and some of the ways he has worked with them in the past. In fact, he lived in the district for many decades and still owns property here. Finally, he looks forward to "coming back home" so to speak, and bringing with him when he comes important news and efforts on the mayoral front.

**Mr. Jack Plushnick** from Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's office extended greetings on behalf of the Councilwoman. He announced that the office holds weekly food and PPE distributions every Wednesday from 10 AM to 1 PM or until supplies run out at the office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue. If you are in need of support, please stop by for provisions. Additionally, on March 19th, the Councilwoman will be hosting a community advisory meeting on NYCHA and efforts to privatize certain developments. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**Ms. Sarana Purcell, District Leader** for the 43rd Assembly District, brought greetings to the community along with a few announcements. She stated that there are a number of important things happening in the community, most notably changes to district lines due to redistricting, and an upcoming special election for the 43rd Assembly District. She explained that those in the 43rd district will vote based on current lines in the special election, but in June, for the regular primary, everyone citywide will vote according to their new lines. As part of redistricting, election districts have changed, meaning that your poll site might have changed as well. For the most accurate and up to date information, make sure to visit the Board of Elections website to determine your new elected officials, who to vote for, and where to vote.

**Mr. Malcolm McDaniel** from the Mayor office, announced that he left Borough Hall with Mayor Adams and joined his staff at the Mayor's Office. He provided a synopsis of a few of the events recently held by the Mayor's Office, as well as a few of the upcoming events later in the month. If you are hosting an event and would like Mayor Adams to appear, email [invitethemayor@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:invitethemayor@cityhall.nyc.gov). If you have a

concern that you would like to relay directly to the Mayor, email [mayoradams@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:mayoradams@cityhall.nyc.gov) or call him (Mr. McDaniel) at 212-788-7418 for constituent complaints.

**Ms. Karen Chambers** from the Kings County District Attorney's office announced that the DA's office has a year-round program for students to be able to get an inside look at various careers within the DA's office. The next cohort of high school internships begins in April and will run through June. To apply, visit <http://www.brooklynda.org/>.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected officials present as well as all representatives for their information, and invited Dr. Raymond Codrington, President and CEO of Weeksville Heritage Center, to provide an update on programs and services at Weeksville.

### **Weeksville Heritage Center** – Dr. Raymond Codrington, President and CEO

Dr. Codrington announced that he is coming upon his one year anniversary as President and CEO of Weeksville, and stated that he is pleased to formally introduce himself to the community.

He stated that Weeksville was the second largest free black community in the Pre-Civil War era. In fact, passersby might see the original houses from Bergen Street and Buffalo Avenue, the ones not part of the museum, as the remnants of the era. The homes, originally built in 1836, are the original houses our ancestors lived in.

Dr. Codrington informed the Board that Weeksville, like a number of other public institutions, is becoming more open and available for tours and visitation. Tour educators are available to give the history of Weeksville during site walk-throughs. You can schedule individual or group tours, but both must be done in advance to book the tour safely and maintain commonsense level precautions.

Over the last several months, the site was a location for many different Covid-19 related activities. They served as a rapid testing and vaccination site and are currently a distributor of free covid home tests. There are several thousand left, so if you are in need of home testing kits, please stop by to grab a few. The museum is open Tuesday thru Saturday.

Performances will resume on March 19th. So far, most of the programming will be outdoors as much as possible to maintain safety. A recent exhibit opened that examines the role of Weeksville in the Abolitionist movement, that also looks at Weeksville in terms of anti-racism. Other upcoming events include virtual Financial Literacy and Home Ownership workshops. Information can be found by visiting our website at [www.Weeksvillesociety.org](http://www.Weeksvillesociety.org).

Starting on June 19th, which is Juneteenth, the Weeksville Green Market will be in effect. The Green Market is a way for residents to obtain reduced rate food and greens, as well as a way for the organization to address food injustice in the neighborhood and encourage residents to eat healthier.

Dr. Codrington concluded that he and other staff are always willing to open dialogue for future programming ideas. He encouraged everyone to consider Weeksville as an oasis in the neighborhood where you can ground and center yourself, connect with the ancestors, and even enjoy open space and greenery.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Dr. Codrington for the information and stated that she looks forward to working with him in the future. She then opened the public hearing on the Agency Responses to the Capital and Expense Budget.

## **Public Hearing**

Ms. Weatherspoon called to order the Public Hearing to gather comments on the agency responses to the FY 2023 Capital and Expense Budget requests. She then asked Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad and Mr. Drew Gabriel to read the requests and agency responses. Chairperson Weatherspoon asked that everyone hold their comments to the end. When making comments please indicate if the item is capital or expense and include the priority number. Comments were limited to three minutes each. After opening the floor to public comments.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that additional comments can be emailed to the district office by tomorrow no later than 12 noon.

Ms. Marquis asked where the dog run would be located in Brower Park. Ms. Andrews replied that the location would be determined by the parks department and it will be based on square footage.

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner asked about capital item #11-Lighting in Brower Park, she noticed that this is currently an item that is listed in the 36<sup>th</sup> participatory budget, who would install and how is it funded. Ms. George replied that these projects are usually funding by the local councilmember and/or the borough president and the Parks Department would either do the work or contract it out.

Mr. Saunders made a motion, that the full send a letter to the Mayor and other elected officials on the comments gathered regarding the agency responses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raji and carried unanimously with a vote of 33 in favor, none against and zero abstentions.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their comments and continued with the public hearing on committee action items.

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

The Land Use Committee met virtually on Thursday, March 3, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Pierre Albert, Andrew Wright, Helen Beichel, Mimi Mitchell, Cathy Iselin, Ethel Tyus, Deborah Young, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Elaine Weinstein, Frances Langley, Irsa Weatherspoon, Gib Veconi, Jack Robinson, Jay Jaffa, Jack Ackerman, Jennifer Jordan, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kaja Kuehl, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson, Kwasi Mensah, Mikayla Marquis, Princess Benn-James, Michelle George, Nix Laemmle, Karen Gray, Robert Puca, Sara Lazar, Tehila Chakansky, Mark Thurton and five callers.

The committee discussed Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) application for 1118 Park Place, Docket LPC-22-00721. The application is for changes to the existing garage façade from wood to a black aluminum frame with glass doors and a stucco finish.

A full presentation by Jack Jaffa and Associates Real Estate Consultants was made, followed by extensive comments and questions from the Park Place Improvement Block Association, community residents, and committee members. Mr. Veconi made a motion that the Land Use Committee withhold support of the application on the grounds that the application is not appropriate with respect to either use or design based on the following reasons that LPC would consider:

- The plan fails to match the proposed finish of the altered façade to that of the

- adjoining residential building to which the garage is an accessory;
- The garage doors will be replaced by four glass windows and two glass doors, the surrounding wall will be stucco with no attempt to match the cast stone finish of the adjoining portion of the residential building.

Ms. Young seconded the motion, which carried with a final tally of 19 in favor and one abstention. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Ms. Beichel, President of the Park Place Improvement Block Association outlined several concerns from her neighbors regarding the renovation of this garage. She disputed the address stating that the correct address should be 1114 Park Place. She stated that because of this confusion, it causes problems with researching their permit filings. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that we have checked with the Department of Buildings and 1118 is the correct address for the garage. She also stated that the Brooklyn Topographical Bureau at the Borough President's office is charged with assigning new and/or additional addresses to existing buildings and the garage has been assigned 1118 Park Place. The Block Association also has issues with the materials being used for the renovation. Mr. Ackerman replied by stating that they are working with LPC on the proper material to be used during the renovation. Ms. Beichel also submitted a petition from area residents opposing the project which details several other concerns.

Ms. Weatherspoon then asked for any comments or questions from the community board members. Hearing none, Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion. Ms. Lazur made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation as presented to withhold support. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a vote of 34 in favor, none against and no abstentions.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

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

Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met virtually on Monday, March 7, 2022 via Webex. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair, Dian Duke, Brian Saunders, Celene Rosado, James Ellis, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Tamika Gibbs, Gail Muhammad, Robert Puca, Sharon Wedderburn, Mark Thurton, Roger Myers, PO Vidal, L. Kim Robinson, Oliver Hardt, Alicia Nosenzo, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Ethel Tyus, Natalie Lammin, Stephanie Hendricks, and Rep. from Franklin Park.

The committee discussed the following renewal applications:

- Rangoon, 500 Prospect Place [corner Classon Avenue] – Beer/wine/cider license (recorded music, backyard)

Details include:

- Hours of operation: Noon to 10:30 PM Sunday thru Thursday; Noon to 11 PM Friday and Saturday
- 4 tables with 21 total seats; 1 bar with 6 seats
- 20x34 backyard space with same interior hours. 4 tables with 8 seats each
- sidewalk café 40x12 with 8 tables and 16 seats

- Franklin Park, 618 St. John's Place [Franklin/Classon Avenues] – Full license (recorded music, patio/deck)

Details include:

- Hours of operation: Noon to 2 AM Saturday and Sunday; 1 PM to 2 AM Monday thru Friday
- 40 tables with 80 seats; 2 bars with 30 seats
- 18x70 garden space with 20 tables and 4 seats at each
- max patron capacity is 100

- Stratosphere Studios, 227 Utica Avenue [Sterling/St. John's Places] – Beer/wine/cider license (DJ, live music {bands, acoustic, all styles}, video/arcade games, artist networking and showcasing)

Details include:

- Hours of operations: 9 AM to midnight Monday thru Thursday; 9 AM to 2 AM Friday; 10 AM to 2 AM Saturday, closed Sunday
- 13 tables with 26 seats
- recording studio for live performances

The committee also discussed the follow new applications:

- Savannah, 158 Utica Avenue [St. Marks Avenue/Prospect Place] – Full (live acoustic music, patio/deck, DJ, recorded music)

Details include:

- Hours of operation: 11 AM to 1 AM Sunday; 3 PM to 1 AM Monday thru Thursday; 3 PM to 4 AM Friday; 11 AM to 4 AM Saturday
- 24 tables with 48 seats and 1 service bar with an additional 13 seats
- 20x40 backyard patio to close at 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday. Capacity is 40, 20 tables with 2 seats each
- max capacity 74

The committee voted to support all 4 applications as presented and hopes the full Board supports 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. Ms. Tyus 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.

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

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on Tuesday, March 8,



2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Brian Saunders, present were: Drew Gabriel, Secretary, Celene Rosado, Lisa Atkinson, Kalvis Mikelsteins, L. Kim Robinson, Karen Gray, Mark Thurton, Yahya Raji, Princess Benn-James and two callers.

No report was submitted, however, Mr. Gabriel mentioned that the committee would like to do some beautification projects along the commercial strips in the district this spring. They would also like to create a social media page to try to increase the committee's presence and to make the community aware of the local businesses located in CB8.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Mr. Saunders invited everyone to attend and bring one person with you.

### **Youth & Education** – Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Daniel reported that the Youth and Education Committee did not meet during the month of March.

The announcement of the winners of the young artists Black History Month Art Contest has been delayed because the committee is still going through submissions. The winner will be announced next month.

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

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

Mr. Witherwax reported that the Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee met virtually on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Robert Witherwax, present were: Mark Thurton, Vice Chair, Xeerxeema Jordan, Celeste Stern, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Igenie Harris-Blenman, Janet Collins, Jennifer Jordan, Irsa Weatherspoon, Peter Krashes, Saskia Haegens, William Meehan, Deborah Young, Gib Veconi, Kyle Gorman, Regina Kinsey, Alan Gerber, Danae Oratowski, Rae Walder, Tiffany Forte and two callers.

No committee report was submitted, however, Mr. Witherwax reported that the sub-committee on Rats gave a report. They discussed the rats that are running rampant throughout the community and ways we as individuals and as a community can work together to prevent and ameliorate this plaque.

The committee also heard a report from the Rules of the Road sub-committee which has a couple of great ideas. One is a pair of spreadsheets that will be used in tandem with the district office to track quality of life and safety issues as they arise.

The committee is also working on drafting a letter to support the Stop the Chop movement regarding the increase in helicopter traffic throughout the district.

The committee will not be meeting during the month of March. The next meeting of the EST Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

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

Ms. Gibbs reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met virtually on Thursday, February 17, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Tamika Gibbs, present were: Kimberly Watson, Vice

Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Frances Langley, Kim Robinson, Kwasi Mensah, Xeerxeema Jordan, Irsa Weatherspoon, Jennifer Jordan, Frank Manetta, Drew Gabriel, Andrea Ferris and Nizjoni Granville.

No report committee report was submitted, however, Ms. Gibbs announced that the committee heard a very informative presentation from the New York City Fire Department Fire Safety Unit. Firefighter Manetta gave some lifesaving tips on fire prevention and also gave advise on what to do in a fire. All are encouraged to watch the recording of the meeting for helpful tips.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022. The committee will hear a presentation on Sickle Cell. All are welcomed to attend and encouraged to bring a friend.

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

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 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.

No committee report was submitted, however, Ms. Granville reported that all city agencies have intergovernmental liaisons available to assist residents as well as local elected officials.

They also discussed local law 152 which requires the periodic inspection of gas piping systems of all buildings at least once every four years. For multifamily properties, this includes exposed gas piping outside and inside the building, in boiler rooms, in all amenity and common spaces, rooftop mechanical spaces and publicly-accessible areas. Several homeowners are upset that they are being inundated with letters from plumbers saying that this is urgent and must be done now. She stated that she has learned that this is not an urgent need. Homeowners should do their homework and find out their property requires this type of inspection. The committee will also inquire with the Department of Consumer Affairs about this type of literature being sent out to residents.

Ms. Granville also mentioned that there will be a special meeting joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to have a Neighborhood Planning Discussion with Tom Agnotti on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Angotti is a Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Director of the Hunter College Center for Community Planning and Development.

The next meeting of the Housing Advocacy Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

**Parks** – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Greg Todd, Vice Chair, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Julia Boyd, Karen Gray, Mark Thurton Vilma Zuniga, Nizjoni Granville, Sandra Coello, Uma and 5 callers.

No committee report was submitted for the month of March. However, Ms. Andrews stated that New York City Parks is offering summer camp this year, this includes St. John's Recreation Center. Please sign up for the lottery by March 21. Camp runs 7 weeks from July 6-August 19 for children ages 6-13.

Total cost for the summer is \$500 per child (payment plan available). For more information, please visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/summer-camp>.

The Parks Department also has 100 seasonal jobs available visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) for more information.

Ms. Andrews announced that Lincoln Terrace Park Tennis Association has been awarded outstanding organization. For more information on the tennis association, please visit the parks department website at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/lincoln-terrace-arthur-s-somers-park/facilities/tennis>.

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.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

**Public Safety** – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton reported that the Public Safety Committee met virtually on Tuesday, February 28, 2022 via WebEx at 6:20 pm. In addition to the Chair, Mark Thurton, present were: Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Ethel Tyus, Igenie Harris-Blenman, Tamika Gibbs, Lisa Atkinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Karen Gray, Lt Polanco, Officer Vidal, and Roger Myers.

The Public Safety Committee submitted that following report:

77th Pct Crime Stat report:

77th Pct Crime Stat Jan 31 to FEB 22			
	2022	2021	% Chg
Murder	0	1	-100
Rape	4	2	200
Robbery	20	12	67
Felony Assault	20	19	5
Burglary	18	5	360
Grand Larceny	24	15	60
Grand Larceny Auto	6	3	200

Precinct reported that some robberies are related to social media sales on line. The crime occurs when on line buyers are robbed when they are picking up their items in person. Suggest in person exchange can be done at the 77th Precinct.

Several auto thefts are committed when drivers leave their cars running with keys in them. Batteries are being stolen from parked rental scooters. Catalytic converters are being stolen from parked cars as well. It is recommended to have catalytic converters welded on.

The officers announced the upcoming Neighborhood Coordinating officer meetings. NCO sector C meeting on March 10, 2022 at 5:30PM via video conferencing and NCO Sector D meeting on March 24, 2022 at 5:30PM via video conferencing

Mr. Myer reported that 964 Park Place tenant eviction has stopped. Old owner has to work on getting back deed for the building.

The Urban Market graffiti has been painted over. Hoping to get art work on the wall.

The Nostrand Ave commercial corridor is starting to pick back up with foot traffic.

E-bikers and E-scooters riding on the sidewalk is a danger. Can traffic enforcement be done to stop the E-bikers and E-scooters on the sidewalks. Officer Vidal stated that the 77th Pct has spoken to the restaurant owners in the area and asked them not to have their delivery people ride on the sidewalk. But most of the deliveries are done via Doordash and Uber Eats delivery employees. The restaurant owners have no control over them.

A committee member asked if the NYPD can do a PSA for do not ride E-bikes on the sidewalk. Officer Vidal, NYPD do not do PSA related to E-bikes on the sidewalk. Recommend to contact Doordash and Uber Eats and your City Council representatives.

Mr. Thurton asked if traffic enforcement has increased in the 77th Pct. Lt Polanco, traffic enforcement has not increased. A little less traffic tickets issued this year compared to last year. 77th Precinct have been issuing tickets for texting and driving.

Ms. Atkinson inquired about the lack of visible police presence at the night in the areas of Bergen, Rochester Ave, Atlantic Ave & Utica Ave. Lt Polanco responded that there are several police officers in the area.

The committee discussed unmarked and marked police cars. What are their responsibilities. They were told that NYPD: Marked cards are responding to 911 calls and unmarked cars are part of the special unit focusing on crime.

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

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

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

In addition to the Chair, Gail Branch-Muhammad, 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, Essie Spivey, Lula Staton, Patricia Washington Vilma Zuniga, Linda Ragoon, Patricia Washington, Tammy Hall, Olivia Starks, Mary William, Nizjoni Granville, Michelle Morris, Jeremy from Councilmember Hudson's office and

Honorable Deputy Borough President Diana Richardson.

The committee discussed the following:

Regina Kinsey stated that Women's History Month "Celebrate Ourselves, be grateful that we are still here to talk about it."

Gail Branch-Muhammad reported that on Friday, February 25th Grandma's Hand and Regina Kinsey delivered food to the seniors at the St. Louis Senior Center located at 230 Kingston Avenue.

On Friday, February 25th Assemblymember Stephani Zinerman, 56<sup>th</sup> AD visited St. Louis Senior Center, to distribute Covid 19 home self-testing kits and were shown how to take and read the test. Each senior received 2 kits which is a month's supply. Seniors should consider testing friends and relatives who visit their homes.

Mr. Carson, Acting Director at the center will allow more at home kits to be distributed to the center.

On Friday, March 18, 2022 the Brooklyn Academy of Music will be showing the movie Imitation of Life. (Seniors Only) 10 tickets. If interested the pick-up time is 9:00AM Movie starts at: 10:00 AM. Regina will follow-up with the 77 Pct. Council President regarding transportation.

Special Guest Speaker: Deputy Brooklyn Borough President: Diana Richardson – Greeted everyone with a Happy Women's History Month and was humbly thankful for the invitation.

Deputy Borough President Richardson spoke about her duties which include:

- Oversight of Brooklyn Community Boards
- Gun Violence – no stranger to this area, already assessing and reaching out to people.
- DA Gonzalez on board,
- Positive programs in the communities
- External Partners – Non Profit
- Clergy – Solution Oriented
- Innovated Solutions

Contact Person in her office: Cheikh Gueye -718-802-3579

Email: [Cheikh.Gueye@Brooklynbk.nyc.gov](mailto:Cheikh.Gueye@Brooklynbk.nyc.gov)

Links will be sent regards to: Meetings, requests for proclamations and Capitol funding.

Seniors asked a number of questions and additional suggestions for vocational education leading to trade jobs. Organizations teaming up with the Deputy Borough President's office regards to scholarship programs.

Gail Branch-Muhammad thanked Ms. Richardson for her appearance to the meeting and all the work she has and continue to do.

In closing Ms. Richardson stated – Life is about perspective. Multiple ways to see positive even when in the worse situation. Make lemonade. Choose happiness which is an external factor. The tongue is the rudder of life. Have a positive perspective.

Crown Heights North Association will be hosting the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Special Election Candidate Forum on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:00pm Gail Muhammad will make sure that flyers go out to seniors. There will be a call in number for seniors who are interested in participating.

District 43 Special Election is Tuesday, March 22, 2022. It is very important that people come out to vote, take someone to go with you to vote. Do your research on the candidates.  
230 Kingston is a polling site.

Jeremy from Councilmember Crystal Hudson's office – Women's History Month celebration on March 24, 2022; he will get the information to Ms. Branch-Muhammad.

Crown Height North Association will be having their annual Shredding Event on April 23, 2022.

St. Louis Senior Center 230 Kingston Avenue will have masks that you can pick up between the hours of 8:30am - 4:00pm.

Michelle Morris of Brooklyn Youth Enrichment Inc. will be distributing masks on the corner of St. Marks and Nostrand Ave on March 3, 2022 she also shared information about academic scholarships

Meredith Staton is still in Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation, Mrs. Staton thanked everyone who sent her husband cards and stated that he is doing well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via conference call.

#### **Veterans** – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Veteran's Committee met virtually on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 via WebEx at 6:20 pm.

In addition to the Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Princess Benn-James, Tiffany Forte and 1 caller.

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.

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 in collaboration with CB's 3 and 16. The parade will be held on the Saturday before Veteran's day.

The next meeting of the Veteran's Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 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. Hearing none, she thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

## Guests Present

Anna Petkovich  
Brent Butler  
Helen Beichel  
Mimi Mitchell  
Panamanian Parade Organization  
Dana Ottey  
Ethan Smythe  
Elaine Weinstein  
Hellen King-Denman  
Iman Stevenson  
Jack Robinson  
Jay Jafa  
Jeff Ackerman  
Kesha Harmon  
Michael Francoeur  
Mikayla Marquis  
Milette Millington  
Phyllis Grannum  
Nile Ferrell  
Nix Laemmle  
Raul Rothblatt  
Shirley Mondesir  
Stephanie Hendricks  
Frenchy Schaffer  
Maria Willis  
3475\*\*\*\*94  
3479\*\*\*\*45  
6462\*\*\*\*23  
7184\*\*\*\*30  
9018\*\*\*\*05  
9174\*\*\*\*33  
9178\*\*\*\*61  
9178\*\*\*\*94