## Community Board 8 General Community Board Meeting Via Webex Virtual Platform

## **December 9, 2021**

## Members Present

Kiermoni Allison Glinda Andrews Lisa Atkinson **Princess Benn-James** Gail Branch-Muhammad Robert Callahan Dian Duke Andrea Ferris Drew Gabriel Tamika Gibbs Nizjoni Granville Igenie Harris-Blenman Marva Henry Xeerxeema Jordan Frances Langley Sarah Lazur Mireille Lemaine Kwasi Mensah Fior Ortiz-Joyner Robert Puca Yahya Raji Adam Sachs **Brian Saunders** Mark Thurton Greg Todd Ethel Tyus Gib Veconi Kimberly Watson Irsa Weatherspoon **Robert Witherwax** Deborah Young Vilma Zuniga

## **Members Absent/Excused**

**Desmond Atkins** Julia Boyd Gerri Buchanan John Buckholz Nora Daniel Aisha Dotson Kevin Farley Fred Frazier **Regina Kinsey Elaine Mahoney** Kalvis Mikelsteins Alicia Nosenzo Celene Rosado Meredith Staton Audrey Taitt-Hall Yves Vilus

## **Elected Officials Present**

Senator Zellnor Myrie- 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District Edu Hermelyn, District Leader-43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly Dist.

## **Elected Officials & Agency Representatives**

Godfrey Bayalama, Senator Zellnor Myrie's office L. Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel Damaris Falero, Dept. of Buildings Jonathan Marable, Bklyn Chamber of Commerce Orlando Ross, Congressmember Yvette Clarke Raul Rothblatt, Councilman Robert Cornegy

# CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:20 PM by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting and asked for a roll

call. After establishing that a quorum was present. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that we are unable to accept the minutes from the November meeting because they have not been presented by the Secretary as of yet. Ms. Weatherspoon opened the floor to elected officials, elected official representatives, agency liaisons and public comments.

**Ms. Kim Robinson** from Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel's office brought greetings from the councilwoman and stated that this would be her last meeting because the new councilmember takes office in January. She wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Robinson and wished her well.

**Mr. Raul Rothblatt** from Councilman Robert Cornegy's office stated that he is sad that this is his last meeting with the council. However, he stated that he and the councilmember will still be around working in the community. He shared that Lyft is offering 20% discounts for people who want to shop in the 36<sup>th</sup> district and take a Lyft. He stated that Councilmember Cornegy was very vocal about getting the tax lien sale delayed. Last night they partnered with several community organizations for the tree lighting ceremony at Brower Park and also held a gift giveaway. He also mentioned that the City Council just passed Intro. 1867 which states that you don't have to be citizen to vote in municipal elections, and also Reso. 1430 which will prevent aggressive abuse of real estate developers. Sadly, the Third Party Transfer program will not get reformed this session but he is hopeful that this will be addressed next session. Also, please look out for their upcoming resource guide, it is filled with a wealth of information. Wellness Wednesdays food distribution will continue at Restoration Plaza until the end of the month. Scholarships are available to children ages 5-11 years old if they get the vaccine. Lastly, he stated that it has been great working with community board 8 over the years. The Councilman really appreciated the partnership.

**District Leader Edu Hermelyn, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District** wished everyone a happy holiday. He stated how much he enjoys attending community board 8 meetings because they are run so efficiently. He mentioned that over the last week he has partnered with Councilmember Cornegy and several community organizations like Crown Heights North Association, Friends of Brower Park for the leaf clean, Christmas tree lighting ceremony and gift giveaway. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

**Mr. Godfrey Bayalama** from Senator Zellnor Myrie's office wished everyone a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year. He informed the Board that the Senator would be joining the meeting at 7pm. He announced that the Homeowners Assistance Fund will open in January. The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about the Homeowners Assistance Fund, please visit their website at: https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org

# **Public Comments**

Mr. Rothblatt stated that he is apart of an amazing organization called Yiddish New York. On June 30<sup>th</sup> he will be hosting a program on the Crown Heights riots. More information will be given as the date gets closer.

**Mr. Jonathan Marable** from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce stated that as of December 8, 2021 until it runs out, 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. Weatherspoon thanked everyone and opened the floor to the Public Hearing on Committee Action Items.

# SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)

Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met virtually on Monday, December 6, 2021 via Webex. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

- 1. Renewals
  - a. **Friends and Lovers, 641 Classon Avenue** [between Pacific Street/Dean Street] Full license (juke box, DJ, live music, karaoke, patron dancing, 3rd party promoters, security personnel, backyard)
  - b. Weatherup & Co, 589 Vanderbilt Avenue [between Dean Street/Bergen Street] Full license (recorded music)

The committee voted to support both renewal applications as presented and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. 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. Lazar 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 26 in favor, zero against with one abstention.

2. New Applications:

# A. Essence Bar and Grill, 1662-1666 Atlantic Avenue [corner of Troy Avenue] –Full license (live music, backyard)

Details:

- Hours of operation: Noon to 2 AM Monday thru Friday; 3 PM to 2 AM Friday and Saturday
- 1 service bar with 15 seats; 10 tables with an additional 20 seats; max patron capacity is 50
- Backyard space (25x25 feet) with 4 tables and 12 seats; hours 2 PM to 11 PM Sun-Thurs; 2 PM to midnight Fri; 3 PM to midnight Sat.
- Security cameras

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

Ms. 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. Ms. Muhammad asked if the applicant had submitted the revised form to the district office as promised. Ms. Weatherspoon replied yes, all updated forms have been submitted. Ms. Langley inquired about how the neighbors felt about the backyard space. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the tenants in the building and the adjacent properties have all been notified. To date we have not heard of any concerns or complaints from the neighbors. Mr. Callahan inquired as to why this is a new application when this establishment has been in existence for some time now. Mr. Witherwax stated that this applicant is a new licensee, however, they will continue to use the same business name. With no further questions, Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion. Ms. Muhammad made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jordan and carried with a vote of 26 in favor, 2 against with zero abstentions.

# B. KP All Occasions Hall LLC, 744 Nostrand Avenue [near Park Place] – Full license

Details:

- Catering hall with hours of operation 10 AM to 1 AM daily
- Max patron capacity is 50 persons
- 2+ service employees depending on need for events

The committee voted 14 in favor with 1 opposed to support the application and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, he then asked for any comments or questions from the community board members. She then asked for a motion. Ms. Gibbs made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke carried with a vote of 29 in favor, zero against with one abstention.

# Housing (Advocacy)

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 via Webex. The committee discussed a draft letter to be sent to the three City Council representatives for Community Board 8 regarding the Tax Lien Sale. Included in the letter are jarring statistics on the impacts of the tax lien sale and how it disproportionately affects communities of color. The committee voted unanimously with 14 in favor to send the letter to Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, Councilman Robert Cornegy, and Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel prior to the lien sale scheduled for December 17, 2021. Ms. Granville read the full letter and hopes the full Board supports the committee's recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked the committee for their work in preparing this important letter. She 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. Ms. Lazar asked if approved could the letter be sent out tonight. Ms. George explained how difficult that may be and stated that the letter will go out first thing in the morning. Ms. Robinson stated that the City

Council had voted on the Tax Lien Sale earlier in the day. Ms. Weatherspoon expressed her disappointment in that news and stated that the board would still send the letter if approved. She asked for a motion. Mr. Witherwax made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd carried with a vote of 29 in favor, zero against with zero abstentions.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that this concludes the Public Hearing on committee action items. She then welcomed State Senator Myrie and invited him to say a few words.

**Senator Zellnor Myrie, 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District** wished everyone happy holidays and stated that he has two very important items to mention. During this past budget cycle the State passed the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) they allocated close to \$500 million dollars in the budget in anticipation of what the state would get from the federal government. The application to get assistance will open on January 3, 2022 and will only be open for 30 days and will be done on a first come first served basis.

The Homeowner Assistance Fund offers assistance up to \$50,000. It is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement behind in water/sewer bills, property taxes, etc. as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The application itself is not long, however, there are a lot of documents that are required to prove your hardship. For more information about the Homeowners Assistance Fund, please visit their website at: <a href="https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org">https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org</a>.

The second important item that will be discussed in the next session is the expiration of the 421a tax exemption. What is 421a? It is tax abatement that lowers your property tax bill by applying credits against the total amount you owe. It is most commonly granted to property developers in exchange for including affordable housing and the benefit lasts for 10 to 25 years. Unfortunately, over the years this program has not provide much affordable housing in many of our communities. Senator Myrie stated that he has introduced a bill to repeal the 421a tax exemption that seeks to invest those tax credits to homeowners who have lived in the district for a long time. Senator Myrie thanked the board for this time to share this very important information with the community. Ms. Weatherspoon asked if the Homeowners Assistance fund covers co-op owners. He stated that to his understanding it does. However, there are some income guidelines that have to be met. He stated that he would check and get back to the board.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked him for all the very informative information and asked Mr. Ross if he had something to share.

**Mr. Orlando Ross** from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office wished everyone happy holiday greetings and stated that the Congresswoman is fighting for Brooklyn down in DC. He also stated that the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law by President Biden on Nov. 15, 2021 it includes \$550 billion in new funding to rebuild roads and bridges, water infrastructure, resilience, internet, and more. This means that \$26 Billion dollars is coming to New York State the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest state behind Texas and California. Now is the time to start thinking of way to use these funds. On November 30th Congresswoman Clarke held a virtual town hall meeting on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Ross and asked him to send a copy of the town hall to the district office. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

## Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 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. *Board Members*: Brian Saunders, Glenda Andrews, Nizjoni Granville, Meredith Staton, Frances Langley, Xeerxeema Jordan. *Committee Members*: Essie Spivey, Mary Williams, Brenda Green, Faye Jones, Norma Glover, Annabelle Boyd, Jennifer Jordan, Mildred Smith, Loretta Fisher, Olivia Starks, Linda Ragoon, Linda Montas, Lula Staton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Gail Branch Mohammad.

#### Discussion items:

Gail Branch-Muhammad – Veteran and Senior Event at Nostrand Social (2 seniors won raffle prizes) Booster shots are available for seniors; many of the seniors have received their booster shots.

Regina Kinsley will be doing a follow up on the food distribution, Antioch Baptist Church /AACEO to the center on Friday December 3, 2021.

December 8, 2021 – Brower Park Holiday Event.

Nizjoni Granville – CB 8 Veterans Committee; they meet virtually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. There is a lot of information, services and programs available for Veterans. Many are misinformed about veterans benefits, employment, housing and retirement. State of New York Veterans Affair 250 Schermerhorn Street. Brooklyn, NY.

United States Post Office is hiring; information sent to Ms. George who will be sending the information to CB 8 members.

Emergency Snow Removal – Department of Sanitation is taking applications.

Glinda Andrews – CB 8 Parks Committee, St. John's Recreation Center is open to all. Registration is free, proof of vaccination shot, all activities are available. Scheduled times for children before 6:00pm, Adults are permitted entrance after 6:00pm. Schedules are available at the site.

Brian Saunders – Economic Development & 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council, thanked everyone who came out to Nostrand Avenue Social. Thanked all the members and seniors who came out to vote. The 77 Precinct Council meeting will be in person on December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Transportation will be available for seniors who would like to attend. Regina Kinsey will give Brian the information on the number of seniors who will need transportation. December 18, 2021 – 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Toy Distribution.

Ms. Branch Muhammad thanked all for attending, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a safe and Happy New Year. The meeting concluded at 7:00pm. The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 @ 6:00pm.

## Parks - Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 via WebEx. Ms. Andrews stated that the committee report will be submitted to the district office at a later date. She shared some recent updates. Albany houses playground equipment has finally been upgraded after many years. The Brower Park Pathways project is complete. The project included new drainage systems, pathways, new benches, and reseeding the grass in the oval. The tree lighting and gift giveaway was held last night in Brower Park.

St. John's Recreation Center is offering free memberships until December 31, 2021 with proof of at least one vaccine shot. After the 31<sup>st</sup> membership will be \$150 per year for adults over 24 years old. Senior citizens will pay \$25 per year and membership is free for children and young adults up to 24 years old.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

## Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton reported that the Public Safety Committee met virtually on Monday, November 22, 2021 via WebEx.

In addition to the Chair Mark Thurton, present were: Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair, Tamika Gibbs, Kiermoni Allison, Xerxeema Jordan, L. Kim Robinson, Janet Collins, Marva Henry, Lisa Atkinson, Sharon Wedderburn, Frank Manetta, John Bonner, Princess James, Shirley Mondesir,

The committee submitted the following report:

The committee heard a presentation from the Mr. Frank Manetta, Fire Department of New York FDNY) on Fire Safety during the holiday especially with Christmas trees, candles and heaters. They discussed the importance of not overloading outlets (call an electrician if you don't have enough); unplug your appliances when done using them; Combo Fire/CO2 alarms w/10 year lithium battery are the best; make sure your fire escapes are accessible and clear; self-closing doors are great – close doors behind you so the air doesn't feed the fire; don't ignore sparks in your outlets; fire extinguishers are only good for 1 minute; if not under control get out!; no smoking in bed – foam cushions are carbon based and highly flammable; keep real Christmas trees watered, and consider switching to LED bulbs, check wires to make sure they are not exposed. RESOURCE: Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-877-733-2767) for Sound the Alarm program where you can make an appointment to have a fire expert come to your home and install FREE smoke and CO2 detectors

Tamika Gibbs Announced that on December 17<sup>th</sup> the Health and Safety Committee Fire Safety Presentation.

77<sup>th</sup> Pct Update by PO Vidal - Build a Block Meeting Sector David December 2 @ 5:30pm, Location: 1345 Lincoln Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl, Last NCO meeting of the year.

Special thanks and commendation to the detectives working hard to close cases.

- Arrest made in Homicide from Franklin Avenue
- Arrest made in 2 Victim Shooting on St Johns Place and Rochester Ave

The Youth Coordination Officers worked with Recycle a Bicycle on Nostrand Avenue gave away 10 bicycles to Youth in the Neighborhood on November 6<sup>th</sup>

He also gave the Crime Stats: Homicides in 28 day period down 100% (O vs. 2), Robberies down 30%, Felony assault down 9%, Burglaries down 40%, Grand Larcenies up 14% - Packages and leaving unattended items in Vehicles, take everything out! Grand Larceny Autos up 42% DON'T LEAVE KEYS IN IGNITION!

P.O. Vidal mentioned that at the last NCO Sector Charlie Meeting-No members were in attendance.

Mr. Atkins expressed his concerns about cars speeding on Bergen Street. He stated that speed bumps in bus lanes are not possible but what about speed cameras? He was advised to contact DOT as they install the speed cams. Call 311.

The committee was informed that the Brooklyn Children's Museum is giving out Covid Boosters (Pfizer) and Anti-Virals; Moderna available too.

The Public Safety Committee will not meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2022. All are invited to attend.

# Environment, Sanitation & Transportation- Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax reported that the Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee is in their winter recess. Although the full committee is not meeting the sub-committees are hard at work exploring topics and issues to be addressed in the upcoming year. In January the city will have all new elected officials and this is a great time to unlock our imagination about what our district and city could be, especially when it comes to the Environment, Sanitation & Transportation. First, if we don't have an environmentally sensitive city we won't have a city at all in 50 years. Second, there are some wonderful ideas floating around about ways to rethink our sanitation and transportation systems. DOT released their streets master plan and Transportation Alternatives released their 25 by 25 plan. He invited everyone to join the EST committee once they reconvene on January 25, 2022 with an open mind and open ears about what our city could look like regarding the environment, sanitation and transportation.

# Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on November 9, 2021 via WebEx.

The committee met with the utility companies and discussed how they can help small businesses.

He thanked the Seniors Committee for the invitation to speak to the seniors. The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

# Youth & Education - Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Marva Henry reported that the Youth and Education Committee met virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 via WebEx.

She reported that the committee is planning a black history month art contest. Young artist in grades Pre-K-12 are encouraged to enter and submit photos of artwork under the theme "Beauty in My Community" to express what they see and love within the confines of CB8. 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. The committee is also planning part 2 of their career development series. The next part will be on the film and media industry. The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 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, November 18, 2021via WebEx. The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2021. The committee will hear a presentation on mental health. This topic is so important because of what we have been dealing with in regards to Covid and we also know that the holidays can be challenging for some people. All are welcome to attend.

# <u>Veterans</u> – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the committee met virtually on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 via WebEx. The committee heard a very informative presentation from Commissioner Emeritus, Mr. Terry Holiday from NYC Department of Veterans' Services. He informed the committee that he could arrange for someone to attend a future meeting to help vets fill out claim forms. More information will be given at a later date. The next meeting of the Veterans committee will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. All are welcome to attend.

## Land Use -

Ms. Weatherspoon reported that the Land Use Committee did not meet for the month of December. The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month when there are calendared items.

The MCrown committee which is the subcommittee of the Land Use committee will be holding meeting on January 27, 2022.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their committee reports and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. She asked if there was any old business to finish up. Hearing none, she asked for any new business.

Mr. Veconi asked if Senator Myrie could expand on his comments about 421a and what his bill would do to change the current landscape. He stated that he is very concerned about 421a because we have seen a lot of projects come into the district using option c which is 130% AMI but also because 421a no longer carries a community preference.

Unfortunately, Senator Myrie has left the meeting. Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that we will follow up with him.

Ms. Tyus suggested that the board send a letter to our state representatives to give them some guidance on a new bill. Mr. Veconi suggested that further discussion should be had in the Land Use committee. Ms. Lazar suggested that these discussions should also include the housing committee. Ms. Weatherspoon agreed and stated that we would look into scheduling a meeting.

Ms. Weatherspoon opened the floor to Ms. Damaris Falero and asked her to say a few words.

**Ms. Damaris Falero**, from the Department of Building announced that DOB has a new Homeowner Relief Program. The Department of Buildings will issue a Request for Corrective Action, rather than an OATH summons, for most violating conditions at one- and two- family homes where the owner is eligible to participate in the Homeowner Relief Program (HRP). Owners who receive a Request for Corrective Action will not receive an OATH summons if they correct the violating conditions within 60 days.

## HRP Eligibility

• The property with the violating condition is a one- or two-family home; and

• The property owner has not received an OATH summons from DOB at that property in the past 5 years OR has received OATH summonses from DOB at that property in the past 5 years and those violations were dismissed by OATH or the property owner is a new owner and the OATH summonses issued at that property were issued to a previous owner; and

• The violating condition is not an illegal residential conversion under NYC Administrative Code 28-210.1 or a Class 1 (Immediately Hazardous) violation that led to death or serious injury.

For more information on the program, please go to: <u>homeowner\_relief\_program\_sn</u>

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Falero for the information and asked for final Public Comments and/or announcements.

Ms. Tamika Gibbs announced that the Imperial Bikers Motorcycle Club has been feeding the hungry for the last 10 years. This year their annual Feed the Hungry "to go edition" event will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021 which will feature pre-packaged food to go. The event will be held at 652 Franklin Avenue corner St. Marks Avenue from 2-5pm. All are invited.

Ms. Deborah Young, President of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) announced that their holiday meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. via Zoom. She asked the board office to share the link with the mailing list.

Mr. Greg Todd stated that the Parks Committee is trying to identify people who are familiar with parks, playgrounds and community gardens. The committee will be sending out a list with about 25 parks, playgrounds or community gardens on it. They are requesting if you live near one of them, please let them know so that you can to added to the parks committee.

Mr. Ross stated that last month was Military Families month dedicated by President Biden. Last month Congresswoman Clarke held an event for veterans explaining the various programs available to them. Also, they are talking to veterans and taking their stories and adding them to the Library of Congress. Additional information will be forwarded to the district office.

Ms. Muhammed reminded everyone that redistricting is happening, and everyone will be affected by it. What is redistricting? Every ten years, after each census, an independent commission is appointed to redraw District lines to accurately reflect the City's demographics. Each of the Districts across the City may increase or decrease in size, depending on the Census data, to accommodate changes in population per the Census. On December 22, 2021 the commission will reconvene to discuss the new maps. Please look out for them.

Mr. Saunders announced that the next meeting of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at Calvary Community Church and also on Zoom. The guest speaker will be New York State Attorney General Letitia James. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for attending. Wished everyone a happy and safe holiday. She adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

# Guests Present

Adrian Straker Clara Kelly Khalilah Raheem Phyllis Grannum Saundra Brown Sharon Wedderburn Trina Sunshine Frenchy Schaffer 347-413....

Salang Jennifer Jordan Michelle Morris Karen Gray Sam Clarke Stephanie Grandpierre Elisa Helligard 347-971..... 347-200....