

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

January 13, 2022

Members Present

Kiermoni Allison
Glinda Andrews
Lisa Atkinson
Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Gerri Buchanan
Robert Callahan
Nora Daniel
Dian Duke
Andrea Ferris
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Marva Henry
Xeexeema Jordan
Regina Kinsey
Frances Langley
Sarah Lazur
Kwasi Mensah
Kalvis Mikelsteins
Alicia Nosenzo
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Yahya Raji
Brian Saunders
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Mark Thurton
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

John Buckholz
Aisha Dotson
Kevin Farley
Fred Frazier
Mireille Lemaine
Elaine Mahoney
Robert Puca
Celene Rosado
Adam Sachs
Meredith Staton
Yves Vilus

Elected Officials Present

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
Senator Jabari Brisport, 25th District
Assemblymember Stephani Zinerman, 56th District
Councilmember Crystal Hudson, 35th District
Councilmember Chi Osse, 36th District
District Leader Edu Hermelyn, 43rd Assem. District

Agency & Elected Officials Representatives

Damaris Falero, Dept. of Buildings
Nickolas Perry, NYC Comptroller's Office
Karen Chambers, Bklyn District Attorney's Office
Arna Lipkind, Councilmember Darlene Mealy's Office
Adrian Straker, Councilmember Chi Osse
Deme Brown, NYS Assembly
Casie Addison, Councilmember Crystal Hudson
Arlean Gillin, Councilmember Chi Osse
Stephanie Grandpierre, Safe Horizon

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 6:15 PM by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the first monthly meeting of 2022. She asked for a roll call. After establishing that a quorum was present. Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion to accept the November and December minutes. The minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections.

Ms. Weatherspoon opened the floor to elected officials, elected official representatives, agency liaisons and public comments.

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman – 56th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Zinerman wished everyone a Happy New Year and paused to acknowledge those that have been lost during the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Assemblywoman informed the Board that she heard the collective request of District Managers and Chairs to allow meetings to continue remotely for safety purposes. She announced that earlier in the day, the Assembly passed a resolution to continue easing restrictions of Open Meetings Law to allow the Boards to continue meeting virtually. The resolution is now in the Senate, which is expected to pass the resolution.

Additionally, homeowner help is available for those dealing with financial difficulties during the pandemic. She urged homeowners to please call her office for assistance with the applications. There was a virtual job fair held earlier this week with the Department of Labor, and her office will continue to hold the job fairs monthly in an effort to help match those seeking career changes with training and job location assistance. Sadly, the city has faced a series of deadly fires, none greater than the one recently in the Bronx with 17 fatalities. As a result, her office will be hosting a virtual emergency preparedness training with Woodhull Hospital. All that attend will receive a free go-bag. Further details will be emailed to the District office.

She also announced that Redistricting occurs every 10 years at the conclusion of the Census. Assemblywoman Zinerman thanked everyone from CB8 and in the community that participated with the local redistricting committee. The maps submitted by the 56th Assembly District were adopted for both the senate and assembly, but unfortunately, the maps were voted down at the next level and new submissions are necessary. The process must be completed by February, and the maps are very important for the future of the community.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked Assemblywoman Zinerman for the update and invited Senator Brisport to say a few words.

Senator Jabari Brisport – 25th Senatorial District

Senator Brisport thanked Assemblywoman Zinerman for her thorough report. He added that the Senate included in their resolution that they would like for virtual meetings to remain in place until such time as the State of Emergency is no longer in effect. The Senator also noted that the eviction moratorium will expire this coming Saturday. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) portal has been reopened. If you have applied for ERAP, you are protected against eviction while your application is

pending. Additionally, judges cannot issue an eviction based on non-payment, but they can issue a monetary judgment against you.

Current legislative priorities include guaranteed free childcare and/or extend and increase childcare funds. The senate is also considering a teacher divestment bill and a fossil fuel bill. Masks and home testing kits are available at his office for distribution.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Senator Brisport for the updates and invited our new Borough President to say a few words.

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Borough President Reynoso praised the elected officials representing Community Board 8, noting that the Board is blessed with a great elected body. He is grateful and happy to have been elected as Brooklyn Borough President and is looking forward to being extremely busy fulfilling his goals and making sure that the community boards are busy. He plans to expand the amount of resources that are available to Community Board 8, so that we can do more work. He believes that the community boards are the life blood of the work that he is planning to do at Borough Hall. He plans to assist with professional development and focus on issues that are important to this community. Including land use, education, and transportation and introduce us to professionals to assist the boards in these areas and many more. This district has quite a few unmet needs post covid based on recent data. The BP's office is working with Councilman Osse for assistance related to distributing PPE and home testing kits to help battle Covid-19. There will be at least two distribution events within the boundaries of CB8 in the near future as the district was hit hard by covid but lacked the necessary resources to battle it as a community. He will work with the other electeds to quickly close the resource gap.

Borough President Reynoso acknowledged that the transition of his team to Borough Hall has been difficult as staffing numbers are down exponentially. Quite a few staff members at Boro Hall are joining the Adams' Mayoral Administration. He urged patience, but assured the community that despite the slow nature of movement, movement is indeed being made. The website is currently not active, but staff is working hard to revamp it and get it up and running especially the membership application link.

Finally, BP Reynoso informed the Board that his mission in terms of healthcare is black maternal health, as black women continue to have some of the highest birth mortality rates in the nation. His office is looking to outfit every hospital with a maternal center to make it safe for black women to have their babies and receive the necessary care post birth.

Chairperson Weatherspoon congratulated our new Boro President and thanked him for the update and asked Councilman Osse to say a few words.

Councilman Chi Osse – 36th Council District

Councilman Osse stated that it is an honor to represent the 36th Council District and the historicity in the district. He announced that just a short month ago, as the Omicron variant of Covid-19 began spreading rampantly, the 36th Council District had only two covid testing sites; now the district has 11, and

expanding, with a new site opening at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue.

His office started the New Year by re-launching and remixing *Wellness Wednesdays*. Taking a holistic approach to wellness and understanding its wholeness, they have already distributed hundreds of pounds of fresh food, hundreds of pieces of PPE, Narcan kits, Covid-19 Self Test Kits, brand new clothing, and health information. Wellness Wednesdays will take place from 11 a.m. to either 1 p.m. or until supplies run out at Restoration Plaza. Councilman Osee updated the community on his staff; stating that they will retain the office at Restoration Plaza in about a month after some renovations are completed. In the meantime, to reach the staff, please email district36@council.nyc.gov with any questions or concerns.

Finally, after two years without participatory budgeting it is coming back to the 36th. If your organization has an idea of how discretionary funds should be allocated, please submit a proposal.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilman Osse for the update and invited Councilwoman Hudson to say a few words.

Councilwoman Crystal Hudson – 35th Council District

Councilwoman Hudson announced that it is her pleasure to represent the 35th Council District and Community Board 8 as a former member of CB8 and resident. Regarding discretionary funding and participatory budgeting, her office will be hosting three informational workshops on how to apply and submit ideas on funding January 25th, February 1st, and again on February 8th. All workshops will be virtual, and information for each will be emailed to the district office.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is presently open and accepting applications. If you need help paying your heating bills, please apply by March 15th. The Councilwoman also announced that she, Councilman Osse, and a few other colleagues met with Governor Hochul recently, and one of the priorities mentioned was the Atlantic Yards Development Project, which has become a blight on the community. What was promised years ago has not come to fruition and the project is looking quite bleak without continued government bailouts. She referenced the Brooklyn Speaks workshops and the fact that there is a dire need to have the monies promised actually go into the community. She stated that she will continue to monitor this project closely.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilwoman Hudson for her update and invited Councilwoman Mealy to say a few words.

Ms. Arna Lipkind from Councilwoman Mealy office announced that Councilwoman was pleased to be back representing the 41st Council District after taking a term off. She stated that their office will temporarily remain at former Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel's office at 400 Rockaway Avenue until they find a new space. Finally, the Councilwoman will be collecting donations for the victims of the Bronx fire until further notice. All donations of clothes, shoes, accessories, toiletries, and even food will be accepted Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Lipkind for the update and asked District Leader Hermelyn to say a few words.

District Leader Edu Hermelyn – 56th Assembly District

District Leader Hermelyn wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that it is great to see such energetic young leaders. He also stated that he, along with the female district leader, Sarana Purcell, will be hosting popup Covid-19 testing sites in the 56th Assembly District catchment area along with food distributions. He will email the district office with official announcements as they are created.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked District Leader Hermelyn for his update and opened the floor for public comments and community announcements.

Public Comments

Mr. Kwasi Mensah, in response to comments regarding the deadly fire in the Bronx that killed 17, stated that a similar instance happened a few years ago when a door was left open that allowed the fire to spread. He asked the elected officials if public service announcements (PSA's) could be made to remind the community close the door upon evacuation to prevent needless lives being lost. It is very important to get the message out to people that closing doors saves lives.

Ms. Ethel Tyus stated that as a former settlement attorney for the NYC Comptroller's Office and litigating claims against the city, she has noticed many instances when there are claims like the one in the Bronx where the automated door closers do not work. As such, it is imperative that elected officials look at the manufacturers of these devices and hold them to task. Additionally, tenants need to know what the door closures are for, and make sure that they do not impede their functionality.

Dr. Sarah Lazur reminded those present that the part of the unfortunate story about the deadly Bronx fire is that the tenants were using space heaters because they had insufficient heat. Sadly, insufficient heat is an ongoing issue not only in District 8 but citywide. With subzero temperatures, there is a minimum heat requirement. If anyone is having trouble getting their landlord to turn on the heat, she advised them to contact the Crown Heights Tenants Union for assistance and next steps. Too often, it has been seen, quite a few tenants are afraid to organize and ask their landlords to rectify the issues in their buildings and units as there is a valid fear of loss of their homes. For instance, those not in rent stabilized housing can have their leases voided and not renewed if they create issues for their landlord.

Ms. Tamika Gibbs announced that last year, the City Council passed regulations requiring automatic door closures specifically to prevent loss of life in fires. Additionally, there have been numerous fire safety trainings in District 8 and citywide to inform residents how to keep calm during emergencies and not panic. Unfortunately, panic clouds judgment in emergencies and causes people to do things they normally would not do. We need to be mindful that the first thought of the individuals in the unit of origin for the fire was to evacuate to safety, not necessarily ensuring that the doors were closed. Following this statement, Ms. Tyus stated again that manufacturers must be held responsible for faulty merchandise designed to compensate for human emotions. Councilman Osse stated that the City Council is currently seeking to go after large landlords to prevent maintenance defaults on their properties.

Ms. Igenie Harris-Blenman brought attention to a growing issue with Covid-19 testing, and that is sites not issuing results either timely or at all in some instances. She specifically cited a testing site near Ebbets

Field in Prospect Lefferts Gardens on Bedford Avenue and Sullivan Street that has not been providing results. Councilman Osse suggested that she and other residents rely only on NYC Health and Hospital covid testing sites.

Mr. Gib Veconi announced that Brooklyn Speaks is an advocacy organization that was created to hold the developers of the Atlantic Yards Project accountable for the public commitments made to the community in return for government funds. The present is a great opportunity to push for the community benefits promised for the project that has been ongoing for the last 18 years and is currently experiencing many more delays. Brooklyn Speaks will host 3 more community discussions over the next 2 weeks about the state of the Atlantic Yards project. You can register to attend the events at www.brooklynspeaks.net/crossroads.

Ms. Karen Grey, a broker in the community, stated that she has seen a lot of shoddy work being done in buildings both in new constructions and renovations. She provided details on a new construction property that had 43 major violations prior to tenants moving in due to the subpar work. She also reiterated Ms. Gibbs point that panic does not make for a good memory about what to do in a fire. Instead, we must ensure that the proper equipment is in place to avoid putting further pressure on panic-stricken individuals.

Ms. Simcha Baez, Repair the World Brooklyn is hosting an event for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in a "day on" as stewards of Brower Park. During this family friendly event using the beautiful illustrations and lyrical poetry in Change Sings! by Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States, they will discuss the words and works of Dr. King and local hero and civil rights leader Shirley Chisholm, while they clean up the park. Meet up at the Shirley Chisholm Circle! January 17th, 3:00-4:30 pm. See event details and registration here: <https://fb.me/e/4sWd9BYZ5>. Masks are required.

Repair the World also has volunteers available to assist with community projects and events. Please email Simcha Baez, Chassidic Community Mobilizer at simcha.baez@wererepair.org.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone and opened the floor to the Public Hearing on Committee Action Items.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of Community Board 8 met virtually on Monday, January 10, 2022 via Webex. The committee discussed the expiration of the Governor's executive order suspending Open Meetings Law, which is set to expire on January 15th. The committee voted unanimously to send a letter to Governor Hochul to extend the executive order suspending Open Meetings Law through June 2022 to allow for the option of virtual meetings.

The continued suspension of Open Meetings Law is vital for community participation in a safe manner. The Covid-19 Pandemic has persisted, infection rates have been increasing dramatically amongst both the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike, and new variants including the highly contagious Omicron variant, has made it increasingly dangerous to meet in person. Community Board meetings and public hearings remain a necessary tool for community participation, and as such, it is imperative that we continue to be allowed to meet virtually to fulfill our City Charter mandated responsibilities.

Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that earlier today, we received word from the Governor's office that the Governor has signed an executive order suspending Open Meetings Law allowing for the option of virtual meetings until the pandemic ends. Therefore, there is no need to vote on the letter to the Governor. She asked for a report from the SLAC committee.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)

Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met virtually on Monday, January 5, 2022 via Webex. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. Renewal and Corporate Change application for Branded Cattle Saloon, 603 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner of Bergen Street) –Full License (sidewalk café, recorded music)

The committee voted unanimously with 16 in favor to support the renewal and corporate change application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

2. Renewal application for Bierwax, 556 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner of Bergen Streets)—Full License (DJ, live music, recorded music, patron dancing)

The committee voted 13 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the renewal application in hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

3. New Liquor Application for Winner on Franklin LLC, 747 Franklin Avenue (corner of Sterling Place)—Full License (recorded music)

Details:

- Hours of operation: 7:30AM to 2 AM daily
- 24 tables with 48 seats; one bar with 17 seats
- 16 service employees—will hire locally

The committee voted unanimously with 15 in favor to support the application as presented in 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. Tyus made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muhammad and carried with a vote 35 in favor, zero against with one abstention.

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

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

Environment, Sanitation & Transportation– Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax reported that the next meeting of Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The committee will hear reports from the sub-committees who are hard at work exploring topics and issues to be addressed in the upcoming year. The committee will also review street co-naming applications that are up for consideration.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, January 5, 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, Faye Jones, Brenda Green, Mildred Smith, Essie Spivey, Norma Glover, Mary Williams, Olivia Starks, Loretta Fisher, Frances Langley, Annabelle Boyd, Jennifer Jordan, Vilma Zuniga, Ms. Dowd, Michelle Morris and Pierre Albert, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (resident of Crown Heights)

Ms. Muhammad welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year and introduced Ms. Jacqueline Love Founder and CEO of Grandma Hands a nonprofit business that has been around for seven years catering to “Seasoned Citizens”. Grandma Hands has partnered with Mr. Dupree of Catholic Charities to distribute food throughout Brooklyn and will reach out to Mr. Dupree to discuss food distribution at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston. Grandma Hands partnered with Senior Programs at Quincy Senior Residence located at 625 Quincy Street between Lewis Avenue and Stuyvesant Street. Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Ms. Love will send Ms. Branch –Muhammad a calendar of events to share with the seniors. They have many exciting things going on such as a Self Defense Workshop for seniors to protect themselves with stun gun and pepper spray will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. On Monday January 10, 2022 there will be a raffle drawing for tickets to see the Brooklyn Nets come over fill out your slip and drop your dollar in the box. Grandma Hands can be located at: Grandma Hands Inc. (Instagram) Grandma Hands NFP (Facebook) they also partnership with Doral Health and Wellness on Rockaway Avenue and Pitkin Avenue and Oakstreet Wealth in Brownsville and in Flatbush.

Ms. Kinsey announced that she distributes food every Friday to the Chavis Senior Apartments and if there will be other distributions on that day she will reach out to other places, Ms. Muhammad will keep her abreast.

Michelle Morris from Brooklyn Youth Enrichment Inc. discussed that they have a mobile pantry and did a Christmas Toy Giveaway. She also mentioned that there are Jobs with Covid Testing at Restoration Plaza, 6 hours a day, \$100.00 for the day. For more information, please call 347-443-3018.

Ms. Muhammad announced that the community can now get their Booster shots at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum (Moderna/Pfizer). If anyone needs assistance setting up appointments online, Ms. Mohammad will help them.

Covid Testing will take place at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John’s Place on January 6th and 7th from 10:00am – 3:00pm

St. Gregory’s Church located at 991 St. John’s Place corner Brooklyn Avenue will hold an Ecumenical

Service, Pastor David Wright and Fellowship Mass Choir on Martin Luther King Birthday, January 17, 2022 @ 12:00pm. All are invited to attend.

Mary Williams announced that the African American Clergy & Elected Officials (AACCEO) Meet First Fridays of every month.

Lastly, Brian Saunders was sworn in as the President of the 77 Pct. Community Council at the last meeting. All members should go to the meetings and get information which is vital to know what is going in the community.

She also encouraged anyone interested in joining Community Board 8 to contact the Borough Presidents office for an application. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

The next Senior Committee Meeting will be held on February 2, 2022 at 6:00pm via conference call.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, January 4, 2021 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Greg Todd, Vice Chair, Dorothy Bembyr Guet, Marva Brown, Mark Thurton, Julia Boyd, Sandra Coello, Levette Deas, Donna Algood, and Charles East

Ms. Andrews stated that the committee report will be submitted to the district office at a later date. She stated that the tree lighting and gift giveaway at Brower Park was a success it was sponsored by Crown Heights North Association and Councilman Cornegy's office. Ms. Andrews invited everyone to join Friends of Brower Park and Repair the World Brooklyn for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Brower Park. Meet up at the Shirley Chisholm Circle! January 17, 2022 from 3:00-4:30 pm. St. John's Recreation Center is working on 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.

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

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, January 8, 2021 via Webex. The committee discussed the concept of co-living where the tenants share the common spaces. They believe that this could be an alternative for future housing. They also discussed how this could benefit seniors, young people and individuals moving to New York City. This will address two key issues, isolation and depression. The committee plans to explore this concept further in the future.

Ms. Granville stated that Mr. Tom Angotti has been invited to a future meeting to speak on neighborhood rezoning.

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

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meeting for the month of December due to the holiday. However, he announced that the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) meeting will return to meeting virtually next month. The links will be sent out at a later date. He reminded everyone that the 77th Precinct Community Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month and the 78th Precinct Community Council meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month.

He asked Mr. Atkins, Vice Chair to say a few words about Fire Safety. He stated that last month the committee heard a powerful presentation on fire safety. He urged everyone to get prepared for emergencies such as fires. He also urged the city and elected officials to start providing PSA's about fire prevention. He encouraged everyone to practice fire drills at home the same way they happen in schools and in the workplace. Training and removing fear will go a long way in saving lives.

The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2022. All are invited to attend.

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on January 11 , 2021 via WebEx.

The committee discussed the number of businesses that are closing in the district since the pandemic. They discussed ways to help promote the businesses in the district. The committee plans to continue the community business walk thru's to get to know the businesses.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 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 met virtually on Tuesday, January 4, 2021 via WebEx.

The committee discussed an issue that CEC 16 is having with the principal of PS 243 who has had some problematic behavior and they are really trying hard to get the Department of Education to address this issue. They also discussed ways that the committee might be helpful to them.

The Youth and Education Committee is hosting a 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, February 1, 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, December 16, 2021 via WebEx. The committee heard a very informative presentation on mental health by Vice Chair, Kim Watson who is a licensed MSW. The presentation was specifically about Department of Education, Adolescent and children and how depression affects them pre and post covid.

At the next meeting on January 20, 2022, the committee will hear a presentation from Kings County Hospital. They will be discussing all things Covid. She informed that board about a new Health and Hospitals covid testing site located on Bedford Avenue and Eastern Parkway at the old Chase bank site.

She reported that the Fire Department has confirmed their attendance at the February 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. 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.

Land Use –

Ms. Weatherspoon reported that the Land Use Committee met virtually on Thursday, January 6, 2022 via WebEx.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the application that was scheduled for review was withdrawn by the applicant. She read an email from the architect of 385 Sterling Place that was sent to the district office that in part stated that Senior staff members have been reviewing our and after much consideration informed us that the application can be approved at staff level and therefore, does not have to be reviewed by the community board.

Committee members discussed the January 5, 2022, City Planning Commission Hearing where individual applications for development on Atlantic Avenue between Vanderbilt and Classon Avenues were considered by the Commission and “certified”.

Committee members discussed Council Member Hudson’s statement at the hearing requesting that the individual developers of these projects withdraw their applications at this time.

Several members of the CB 8 Land Use Committee made statements at the hearing representing their own views. Land Use Committee member Gib Veconi read Community Board 8’s recommendation that CB8 members had voted on prior.

The Committee discussed inviting Council Member Hudson to meet with the Land Use Committee. Chair Weatherspoon stated that she would contact the Council Member’s office for available dates for a

meeting.

She also stated that the M-Crown committee which is the subcommittee of the Land Use committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 to identify lessons learned over the last seven years and to review and discuss updating the M-Crown goals in light of changes in the community district since 2015, and discuss the way forward.

Ms. Weatherspoon announced that she has appointed Ms. Sharon Wedderburn as the new Chair of the Land Use Committee. Ms. Wedderburn will be contacting the committee in the next week or so. The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, February 3, 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 or comments. Mr. Callahan asked if Councilmember Hudson had been contacted to speak about her statement before the Landmarks Commission. Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that she had not been contacted yet, but she will be contacted in the next week.

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

Pierre Albert
Aliffer Sabek
Andrew Wright
Anya McCall
Carey Tan
Catalina Gonella
Debbie Bowen
Hellen King-Denman
Jack Robinson
Jennifer Jordan
L. Kim Robinson
Maayan Zik
Manivir Singh
Nix Nicole Laemmie
Karen Gray
Dr. David Allen
Branded Salon Patrick & Gerard
Tammy Meadows
Roger Myers
Mary Woods
Shirley Mondesir
Simcha Baez
Stella Safo

Tiara McLaugh
William Meehan
347743****
917420****
917803****
347200****