

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

**June 9, 2022**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Abasenia Asuquo  
Lisa Atkinson  
Princess Benn-James  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Jacques Brunvil  
Robert Callahan  
Nora Daniel  
Dian Duke  
Andrea Ferris  
Michael Francoeur  
Drew Gabriel  
Nizjoni Granville  
Igenie Harris-Blenman  
Colin Jakubczyk  
Xeexema Jordan  
Regina Kinsey  
Frances Langley  
Kwasi Mensah  
Keiona Morse  
Fior Ortiz-Joyner  
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack  
Celene Rosado  
Pebbles Russell  
Nicole Tetreault  
Zahra Thani  
Mark Thurton  
Greg Todd  
Gib Veconi  
Kimberly Watson  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax

**CB 8 Staff**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

**Members Excused/Absent**

Desmond Atkins  
Julia Boyd  
Marva Brown-Henry  
Fred Frazier  
Tamika Gibbs  
Dr. Sarah Lazur  
Yahya Raji  
Adam Sachs  
Brian Saunders  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Ethel Tyus  
Yves Vilus  
Deborah Young  
Vilma Zuniga

**Elected Officials**

Assemblymember Phara Soufrant-Forrest, 57<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Stephani Zinerman, 56<sup>th</sup> District

**Agency & Elected Official Representatives**

Raul Rothblatt, Assem. Brian Cunningham, 43<sup>rd</sup> District  
Andrew Wright, Councilmember Crystal Hudson, 35<sup>th</sup> Dis  
Kevin Lawrence, Assembly Phara Soufrant-Forrest, 57<sup>th</sup>  
Naomi Hopkins, Councilmember Chi Osse, 36<sup>th</sup> District  
Orlando Ross, Congresswoman Clarks office  
Kara Clara, Senator Jabori Brisport, 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Rep. Councilmember Mealy's Office 41<sup>st</sup> District  
Stephanie Grandpierre-Safe Horizon  
Karen Chambers, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office  
Alicia Pritchard, Brooklyn Public Library  
Naila Rosario, Brooklyn Public Library  
Jonathan Marable, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Audrey Diop, Dept. of Social Services  
Dawn Schuk, Dept. of Social Services

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson, at 6:15 PM. She acknowledged the elected officials and representatives that were present and asked each to say a few words.

**Ms. Kara Clark**, Chief of Staff for Senator Jabari Brisport, apprised the Board of some of the highlights of last Senatorial session, and also announced some of the key provisions in the recently passed state budget.

Mayoral control of New York City public schools was extended for two additional years, and once it expires, the Commissioner of Education will review the efficacy of mayoral control on public education in the city. In this Senate session, the senate passed legislative measures designed to reduce gun violence. These measures include microstamping ammunition and restricting assault rifle purchases.

Senator Brisport earmarked \$100k in grant money by the Division of Criminal Justice Services for programs in his district. He allocated an additional \$50k to be used toward violence prevention. Regarding abortion rights, New York State is allowing legal protection for women seeking abortion from other states, but the state government failed to codify abortion access as a state right by law.

Lastly, Ms. Clark reminded the Board that June 28<sup>th</sup> is primary day for state offices, and August 23<sup>rd</sup> is the primary for federal offices. You must be registered for a political party to participate in the primaries.

**Mr. Andrew Wright** from Councilmember Crystal Hudson's office announced that Councilmember Hudson introduced four bills essential to her agenda last week. The bills are affectionately called "The Black Agenda," as they seek to fund initiatives that uplift black people. The key components focus on doulas and midwives; universal childcare for all children under 5; prohibiting discrimination against rent regulated tenants in luxury buildings that do not have access to the same amenities as their higher rent paying neighbors despite living in the same building; and to make June Caribbean Heritage Month in the city, which is already a federally recognized thing. Finally, Mr. Wright announced that help with housing issues is available every Wednesday in the office.

**Mr. Kevin Lawrence**, District Organizer for Assemblywoman Phara Forrest, read a letter message from the Assemblywoman regarding gun violence. He also mentioned the Affordability Connect Program, as well as announced that the Assemblywoman's office offers free covid tests to the community. You may reach him at [lawrencek@nyassembly.gov](mailto:lawrencek@nyassembly.gov) if you need additional information or would like to volunteer.

**Ms. Karen Chambers**, from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office brought greetings from the DA's office, and announced an upcoming Cannabis Town Hall meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM at Universal Temple Church of God located at 1403 Eastern Parkway. If you would like to get the facts on the new laws about cannabis, please attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon acknowledged that Assemblywoman Soufrant-Forest had joined the meeting, and invited her to say a few words.

**Assemblywoman Phara Souffrant-Forest** – 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Assemblywoman Souffrant-Forrest thanked everyone for assisting with recent events held by her office, including a very successful picnic in May. She announced that her office will be hosting a second one in July.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the Assemblywoman for attending the meeting and asked for an update from the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB).

**Mr. Jamell Henderson** from the NAB stated that he is honored to be of service in the community. The NAB is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and provides an opportunity for residents to help DYCD identify funding priorities that are greatly needed in the community. They are seeking active members to assist in this task by growing the community's NAB membership. In the past the NAB and CB8 worked closely together on numerous initiatives, and they are currently seeking to realign the Board in this fashion. Mr. Henderson announced that he was joined by the NAB Chair, Susan Patterson, and she announced an electronic survey that is being released for the first time. This electronic survey is a huge step forward in increasing ideas and membership.

Chair Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their comments and information and stated that CB8 has received several new members. She welcomed each and asked them to introduce themselves and to provide a brief introduction of their interests as well as their location in the district.

**Ms. Abasenia Asuquo** stated that she is new to CB8, having moved to the district about a year ago. She stated that this is her first meeting with CB8.

**Mr. Jacques Brunvil** stated that he is happy to be on the board, and lives on the border of Crown Heights and Prospect Heights. He stated that he grew up in Brooklyn in the Canarsie area, and has lived in CB8 for about two years. He has always been an active member of whatever community he has lived in, and is looking to get involved in any way, but is especially interested in public safety and parks.

**Mr. Michael Francoeur** stated that he is super excited to be a CB8 member having moved into the district within the past year after serving on Manhattan CB1 for almost 4 years. He is excited to learn more about the issues and neighborhoods of CB8.

**Mr. Colin Jacubczyk** stated that he has lived in CB8 for about 8 years in the vicinity of Brower Park. He works in sustainability, and assists in composting on Franklin Avenue.

**Ms. Keiona Morse** stated that she represents Weeksville.

**Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack** introduced herself as an OB/GYN that was born and raised in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, and stated that she is definitely joining the health and human services committee.

**Ms. Pebbles Russell** announced that she has lived in CB8 for 3 years, and in New York City for the last 20 years by way of Washington DC. She recently worked with Manhattan CB3 starting a public art project with First Street Art Association. She works in the arts, so anything related to the service industry, SLA, afterschool programs, she seeks to help in any way.

**Ms. Nicole Tetreault** stated that she lives in Weeksville, in the far eastern end of the district. Her background is in urban studies, and she decided to join the board because she noticed a few issues that can be improved upon in area.

**Ms. Zahra Thani** stated that she lives in Crown Heights, and her background is in research.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked all the new members for their introductions and stated that we are always looking to new ideas and creative talents, welcome aboard.

Chairperson Weatherspoon then asked for a roll call. After establishing that a quorum was present. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the May minutes will be sent out next week for review. She asked Mr. Rothblatt if he had anything to share.

**Mr. Raul Rothblatt** from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham's office stated that it is a busy time in Albany as the Assemblymember is introducing a lot of legislation. On Tuesdays in June, the Assemblymember is inviting people to join community outreach events via Facebook to ask questions of the assemblymember. There will be a Father's Day event this weekend, and a Juneteenth event at Flatbush African Burial Grounds. The office is open and actively participating in constituent services. If you need assistance, please call 718-771-3105.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Rothblatt for the information and opened the Public Hearing for the evening.

### **Public Hearing on Committee Action Items**

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

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, June 2, 2022 via Webex Virtual Meeting platform at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Deborah Young, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Ethel Tyus, Elaine Weinstein, Frances Langley, James Wene, Jeff Sherman, Lisa Atkinson, Mary Shufford, Nizjoni Granville, Princess Benn-James, Nora Daniel, Karen Gray, Peter Krashes, Sarah Lazur, Mark Thurton, Robert Puca, Gib Veconi, Mimi Mitchell, Esteban Giron, Kaja Kuehl and Jonathan Berman.

The committee brings forth the following public hearing action item:

#### **280 Sterling Place: Application to remove an existing rear extension and replace with a full-width new rear extension**

Mr. Jeff Sherman of Delson Sherman Architects presented on behalf of the owners of the single-family home. The owners are renovating the lower two floors, removing an old extension, and proposing to replace the old extension with a new full width extension, topped by a balcony with an exterior, side staircase from the parlor floor to the ground floor.

Neighboring homes have larger extensions in both height and width. Many of these larger extensions are original extensions. Neighbors have been notified and signs posted.

The Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) had no objection to the plans, stating in a support letter that the “proposed one-story extension is modest and consistent with the context of the adjacent buildings as well as with extensions that the Landmarks Committee has supported in the past. PHNDC has no objection to this application, with the understanding that the proposed extension will not extend beyond the depth of the existing two-story extensions on either side of the applicant’s property at 280 Sterling Place.”

Neighbors present at the meeting also did not have any objections to the applications.

The committee voted unanimously to support the application as presented in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any comments or questions or comments from the community. Hearing none, she then asked for questions and/or comments from community board members. Hearing none, she asked for a motion. Mr. Veconi made a motion that the board support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ortiz-Joyner and carried unanimously with 33 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 against.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2022 via WebEx. 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, June 6, 2022 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Irsa Weatherspoon, present were: Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair, Alicia Nosenzo, Dian Duke, Deborah Young, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Tamika Gibbs, PO Vidal, Gail Muhammad, Karen Gray, Oliver, Robert Puca, Roger Myers, Sharon Wedderburn, Mark Thurton, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Celene Rosado, David Stockwell, Frances Langley, Hassan, Dwayne Winter, Richard Wu and 3 callers.

The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

- **Renewal application for Faun**, 606 Vanderbilt Avenue (between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue) –Full (application inclusive of patio/deck)
  - Details include 13 tables with 32 seats and one service bar with 8 seats
  - Hours of operation 5 PM to 10 PM Tuesday thru Thursday; 5 PM to 11 PM Friday and Saturday; 11 AM to 9 PM Sunday, closed on Monday
  - 20x30 foot outdoor space with 14 tables and 32 seats closing at 9 PM Sunday and 10 PM Tuesday thru Saturday
- **Renewal application for MISC**, 758 Franklin Avenue (between Sterling and St. John’s Places) – Full (application inclusive of recorded music)
  - Details include 11 tables with 22 seats and one service bar with 7 seats
  - Hours of operation 12:30 PM to 10:30 PM Sunday, Friday, and Saturday; 12:30 PM to 10 PM Monday thru Thursday
  - Backyard space with 15 tables and 30 seats closing at 9:30 PM Monday thru Thursday and 10 PM Friday thru Sunday

- **Renewal application for Ogliastro**, 784 Washington Avenue (between Sterling and St. John's Places) – Full (application inclusive of backyard, recorded music)
  - Details include 10 tables with 20 seats; one service bar with 10 seats; max capacity 74
  - Hours of operation 5 PM to 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday, 5 PM to 11 PM Saturday and Sunday
  - 25x25 foot backyard space with 15 tables and 30 seats operating until 10 PM daily

The committee voted to support all applications and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

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

Hearing no other comments, Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion. Mr. Veconi 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 of 33 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The committee also heard the following new application:

- **New application for Possum Enterprises**, 593A Vanderbilt Avenue – Beer/wine/cider license  
Application details include:
  - 6 tables with 12 seats; one service bar with 9 seats; max patron capacity of 36
  - Hours of operation Noon to 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and Noon to 11 PM Friday and Saturday
  - 20 feet by 30 feet garden/grounds outdoor space with 9 tables and 18 seats, max capacity 36
  - Hours of operation for outdoor seating Noon to 10 PM daily
  - 15 service employees
  - Stipulation by committee: remove speakers from backyard space

Additionally, the committee heard an alteration application for Savvy Bistro located at 710 Nostrand Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place). On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the applicants requested a postponement until the July 25<sup>th</sup> SLAC committee meeting as they realized the committee did not have the opportunity to discuss the full details of the changes they are making to their license.

The committee voted to support the application with one requirement to remove the outdoor speakers and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

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

Hearing no other comments, Ms. Weatherspoon asked for a motion. Mr. Veconi made a motion that the full board support the committee's recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried with a vote of 32 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstentions.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, July 25, 2022 for the summer. That will combine both July and August applications for liquor licenses. All are welcomed to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that this concludes the Public Hearing on committee action items, and asked Ms. Hopkins if she had anything to share from the Councilmember's office.

**Ms. Naomi Hopkins**, Chief of Staff from Councilmember Chi Osse’s office announced that she is happy to hear that some of CB8’s committees will continue to meet throughout the summer, and asked committee chairs to please let them know the details so that they can participate. She announced that the councilmember will be hosting a summer movie series at a few parks across the district, including Von King Park’s new cultural center, Brower Park, and Restoration Plaza. If interested in participating, please contact the office to be put on the email list.

Ms. Hopkins announced that the councilmember’s office will be hosting a housing attorney in the office twice a month to address the many issues tenants have with their landlords, including withholding rent and tenant organizing. Wellness Wednesdays will continue indefinitely. The Council is still in budget season, but is hoping to have a budget passed soon. So far, the councilmember has managed to fund multiple CBOs and organizations in CB’s 3 and 8 that will benefit the community.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 718-919-0740 or email [district36@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district36@council.nyc.gov).

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Hopkins for the information and asked Ms. Naila Rosario for an update from Brooklyn Public Library.

**Brooklyn Public Library** – Ms. Naila Rosario, Senior Manager of Government and Community Affairs

Ms. Rosario, Senior Manager of Government and Community Affairs was in attendance with Ms. Alicia Pritchard, the liaison with the Brower Park Branch. Ms. Rosario shared a presentation with the Board on the status of the relocation of Brower Park Library Branch to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum. She stated that there is a new design for the project which was put on pause due to covid. As background, Ms. Rosario stated that Brower Park branch opened in 1963, and was the smallest branch in the 62 location system of the BPL. Sadly, despite being the smallest, the branch had the largest needs, with over \$5 million in needs and repair work. Additionally, it was one of the handful of branches leased by the city rather than owned outright, and the BPL came to the responsible conclusion that it was too pricey to purchase the building and make the necessary repairs. The cost of the building due to the location was \$3 million and coupled with the capital needs, the decision was made to move to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, a city-owned space. This relieved BPL from having to spend more than \$8 million on the library.

Programing and events for the new space were decided after a very thorough community engagement process across all ages. This means that at upon re-opening, BPL imagines a cross-culturally significant library branch, with free community space, an open space concept reading room, storytime, more in-depth children’s programming, and lowered/shorter bookshelves for easier access as well as a brighter and more airy space. The community room will have a divider to allow for up to two events at once, and the divider is removable for larger events. The library would love to host community board meetings and events with electeds.

Currently, Brower Park Branch is open with limited service, and the full redesigned branch is scheduled to open in the fall on the ground floor of the museum. Programming staff at BPL are excited about possible fun collaborations with the museum.

Ms. Pritchard announced upcoming events, and stated that Brower Park has lobby service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. Community members can handle all library card and patron accounts issues, and pick up and return reserved books. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, there is an outdoor event which includes storytime and a dog fashion show. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the library is partnering with Friends of Brower for their Juneteenth event.

Ms. George inquired about the size of the community room, and was informed that total square footage is unknown at this time, but the information would be provided. Ms. Rosario also offered a sneak peek tour of the library to all appointed CB8 members. She advised interested members to email her after inserting her email address in the Q&A.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Rosario and Ms. Pritchard for the information and invited Ms. Dawn Schuk to make a presentation on key health insurance options for seniors and people with disabilities.

**NYC Dept. of Social Services, Aged, Blind, and Disabled Program** – Ms. Dawn Schuk, Outreach Coordinator

Ms. Schuk stated that Human Resources Administration (HRA)/Department of Social Services is dedicated to fighting poverty and income inequality by providing New Yorkers in need with essential benefits. HRA helps over three million New Yorkers with a variety of services to meet their social service and economic needs. HRA is committed to serving all New Yorkers regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, language proficiency or disability status.

The core benefits and services are cash assistance, employment services, supplemental nutrition/food stamps, medical insurance, child support services, homelessness prevention and services. Assistance for the most vulnerable New Yorkers include immigrant services, language services, IDNYC, HIV/AIDS services, homecare services, adult protective services, domestic violence services, emergency food services, and home energy assistance.

The Aged, Blind, and Disabled Program is a unit working to connect NYC residents and small business owners to care and coverage.

Health Care and Coverage Options for the Aged, Blind and/or Disabled include Medicaid (including Institutional Care in a Nursing Home (Chronic Care)), Medicaid Buy-in for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD), Medicaid Excess Income Program, Medicare, and Medicare Savings Program (MSP).

The Medicaid Excess Income Program provides Medicaid coverage to certain individuals with income above the applicable Medicaid level:

- under age 21
- age 65 or older
- certified blind or certified disabled
- pregnant or a parent of a child under age 21

The amount individuals exceed the Medicaid income eligibility level is called “excess income,”



“surplus” or the amount to be “spenddown.” Eligible individuals can spenddown to the appropriate Medicaid level for their household size or provide medical bills (theirs or children/spouse) equal to or greater than the surplus amount.

The Medicaid Buy-in for Working People with Disabilities provides Medicaid coverage for working individuals with disabilities who may have income and resources above allowable limits for regular Medicaid eligibility. These include those between the ages of 16 and 64, employed and receiving wages/salary, certified disabled by the Social Security Administration, HRA, or State, have an income of  $\leq 250\%$  FPL (\$2832 single/\$3815 married) and less than \$20,000 in resources if single or \$30,000 if married.

The New York State budget expands Medicaid eligibility effective January 1, 2023. This raises the Medicaid income eligibility for people 65 and over and people with disabilities to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL); increases the Medicaid resource limit for people 65 and over and people with disabilities; raises the eligibility level for the Medicare Savings Program Limits from 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level for QMB and to 186% FPL for QI-1; and effective March 1, 2023, undocumented immigrants aged 65+ will now be eligible for Medicaid. They will be required to join a “mainstream” Medicaid managed care health plan.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Schuk for the information and invited Dr. Sophonie Joseph, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Sustainable Environmental Systems program at the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, School of Architecture at Pratt Institute, to make a presentation on Healthy Homes.

**Sustainable Environmental Systems program at the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, School of Architecture at Pratt Institute** -- Dr. Sophonie Joseph, Adjunct Associate Professor

Dr. Joseph introduced herself as an urban planner at Take Root Justice, an organization designed to help New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents understand their options when dealing with mold, lead, and pest issues. She explained that mold can grow anywhere there is moisture, such as spaces where there are leaks, under sinks, or in bathrooms that don't have good airflow. Signs of mold in your home include feeling sick or experiencing breathing issues without cold symptoms. Visible signs of mold include mold spores, clusters of black, brown, or green dots, or a musty or damp smell. Please note that mold can be hidden behind walls, floors, and tiles, but the fact that it is not visible does not minimize the damage and harmful effects. Common effects of mold include making allergies and asthma worse, and causes other breathing problems, in addition to causing chronic headaches, fever, nausea and vomiting, and sore throats. It is especially dangerous for children, the elderly, and people who are sick.

If you have not checked for mold in your home and have some of the above symptoms, you can check immediately and take corrective action. Check moist areas of your house for mold using the guide above, make sure your apartment has good ventilation, and to assist with this, you can invest in an air purifier or de-humidifier. Clean mold on hard surfaces with bleach and treat with bleach often, and replace soft surfaces like carpet with a hard material that can be easily cleaned and dried.

Lead is a poison that can't be seen or smelled, but can be found in paint on the walls or ceilings, or your drinking water. You can't tell if your home has lead in it just by looking at it, so you have to get it

tested by NYCHA to find out. Lead testing is especially important if you have a young child in your home. Let NYCHA know by filling out the questionnaire on the Self-Service Portal at: <https://selfserve.nycha.info>. Common effects of lead poisoning include developmental problems and learning difficulties in children. This in turn can cause behavioral, nervous system, heart, and muscle problems in children and adults. Once you are poisoned by lead, you cannot undo the damage and there is no treatment. The damaging effects are permanent and life altering.

Common pests include mice and rats, roaches, bedbugs, and other insects. Pests are attracted to food, trash, and moisture. Signs of pests in your home include droppings, bites, or dead pests, and even chewed up food packages. Pests in the home are more than just a nuisance as they can cause many problems, including making asthma worse and spreading other infectious diseases. Additionally, pesticides used to kill pests can also be harmful to your health. Sometimes pests cannot be avoided, but to minimize them and also to create a hostile enough environment to help push them away, keep garbage in sealed bags or containers and remove it from your home every day, and store food in air-tight sealed containers.

Mold, lead, and pests are common problems inside residential buildings. By law, NYCHA is responsible for making sure you have a healthy home, and removing mold, lead, and pests, as well as the things that are causing them. If NYCHA doesn't do regular maintenance to get rid of them, they can make you and your family very sick, so it is really important to hold NYCHA accountable for making sure you have a healthy home. Dr. Joseph reminded NYCHA residents that they do not have to tackle these issues alone.

To hold NYCHA accountable, if you run into a problem, open a ticket, keep accurate records of dates, times, and individuals you have spoken with; demand full repairs; let them know immediately and often that you have children and state their ages to make them respond faster; if they test your apartment for lead or mold, demand to know the exact level/reading so you can do research. To escalate the situation if you find mold, call the Mold and Leak Ombudsperson Call Center at: 1-888-341-7152. For systemic issues, get in touch with your neighbors and call the Federal Monitor together at 844-309-6080. If NYCHA still does not respond, organize with your neighbors as chances are the problems you are experiencing are not just happening inside your apartment. Additionally, NYCHA is more likely to respond to complaints from multiple units in the same buildings. Get to know your neighbors, and ask them if they are having the same problems as you. Together, take photos and keep notes about the problem to build a case together for building-wide repairs. If your building has a Tenant Association, share your story with them and find out what you can do together to find a solution. If you don't have a tenant or building association, you can start one. The first step is to meet with your neighbors to talk about ways to organize and solve shared problems. Then, create a shared list of demands to present to NYCHA management. Share the list with NYCHA management in a letter or at an in-person meeting.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Dr. Joseph for the information and asked Ms. Jeanette Castillo, Community Campaigns Coordinator with the Clean Energy Communities Program, to make a presentation on Solar One.

**Clean Energy Communities Program** – Ms. Jeanette Castillo, Community Campaigns Coordinator

Ms. Castillo stated that Solar One is New York City's Green Energy Education Center. Originally founded in 2004 to manage Stuyvesant Cove Park and a small environmental education center, Solar

One quickly grew into an award-winning organization with a thriving array of programs promoting urban sustainability and education. Solar One's programs reach all five boroughs. NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

Ms. Castillo stated that all property owners should seek energy efficiency to reduce energy bills; improve comfort in homes through energy upgrades; reduce carbon-footprint; increase electrification of homes; increase renewable energy.

Barrio Solar is a program to make solar power affordable for homeowners throughout Brooklyn. Barrio Solar lowers the upfront costs, reduces homeowners' electricity costs, and combats climate change. If you own a 1-to-4 family house in Brooklyn, you can join Barrio Solar. The benefits of Barrio Solar are:

- Show you whether solar panels are feasible for your roof
- Give an estimate of your monthly electricity savings
- Provide discounted solar installations through our buyers' club
- Give \$3,500 solar cash down payment assistance for eligible homeowners
- Help weigh the pros and cons of switching to solar

This is an income-eligible program. Visit their website to find out more information and to complete an application.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Ms. Castillo for the information and asked Assemblywoman Zinnerman to say a few words.

**Assemblywoman Stefanie Zinnerman** announced that there was a hearing recently at Borough Hall regarding making Brooklyn into a cease and desist zone. She stated that we need to protect homeowners from real estate developers, and unscrupulous speculative actions. Realtors were present at the hearing in an attempt to stop the cease and desist zone from moving forward as they feel they are unfairly targeted because of the actions of a small few. She and several of her colleagues are in the process of reimagining the armory on Marcus Garvey Blvd in Bed-Stuy. Even though this facility is not in CB8 directly, it can serve the entire 56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. There will be future public hearings and town hall meetings to seek feedback on the types of services and programming for the armory as well as to find responsible partners to operate said programs.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be housing event at Restoration. There will be representatives from NYCHA to speak about public trusts and weigh in on how a public trust will impact NYCHA residents. They will also have advocates come out to speak on what can be done to expand affordability in the city. It is time to start looking at all available options to help people stay in their homes and community as central Brooklyn has the highest rate of gentrification in the city.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Assemblywoman Zinnerman for the update and asked Mr. Ross if he had anything to share from the Congresswoman's office.

**Mr. Orlando Ross** from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office announced two pieces of legislation that the Congresswoman is working on. The first is a Housing Bill with changes at the federal level, co-sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. They were able to secure \$15 billion, which will be used in the following ways:

- Provides urgent support for affordable housing infrastructure in the nation's most populated areas by authorizing \$5 billion for each fiscal year from 2023 through 2032 to the Housing Trust Fund, Community Development Block Grants, and the Home Investment Partnership Program.
- Directs HUD to assess alternative methods of calculating AMI that could help lower rents and income-limits in qualifying units, such as by performing AMI calculations at more localized levels.
- Requires the HUD Secretary to submit a report of findings and recommendations to Congress on ways in which both Congress and the Administration could act to make housing more affordable for low-income and middle-class families throughout urban areas nationwide.

For the second piece of legislation that Congresswoman is co-sponsoring, Mr. Ross read a statement from Clarke regarding gun violence and potential legislation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Ross for the information, and asked for the following committee reports.

**Economic Development** – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Drew Gabriel, Vice Chair reported that the Economic Development Committee next Tuesday, June 14, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. This will be the last meeting until September. The committee will continue discussing and planning for the Nostrand Avenue Open Streets event on August 20<sup>th</sup>. He invited everyone to attend join on the 14th.

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

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 via WebEx at 7:00 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Nora Daniel, present were: Marva Brown-Henry, Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Jennifer and Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, Mark Thurton, Sharon Wedderburn, and Laurel.

The committee did not submit a report. However, Ms. Daniel stated that the committee had a good conversation about how they are going to move forward in the fall. They plan to reconvene probably in August in order to start planning for communicating with the schools in the district. They plan to send a letter and also get involved with some back to school activities to really start spreading the word about the Youth and Education Committee and the Community Board. Lastly, the Youth and Education Committee, Vice Chair Marva Brown-Henry who is also the President of Friends of Brower Park is looking for CB8 Members to volunteers to man the CB8 table at the Juneteenth event. If you are interested, please contact the district office at [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com).

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. All are invited to attend.

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

The Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee met on May 24, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. via WebEx. In addition to the Chair Robert Witherwax, present were: Mark Thurton, Vice Chair, Norman Oder, Deborah Howard, Marie Brandao, Cathy Iselin, Celeste Loft, David Kazanjian, Denise Harding, Ethel Tyus, James Ellis, Elaine Weinstein, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Igenie Harris-Blenman, Elicia Howard, Jenna Glazer, Julia Boyd, Regina Kinsey, Misbah Mostazimi, Michael Rogers, Phyllis Grannum, Karen Gray, Ashish Patel, Peter Krashes, RK, Sari Kisilevsky, Saskia Haegens, Dazhi Sheng, Carmela Smith, Sharon Wedderburn, Tiffany Forte, William Meehan, Kay Andrews, Stanley Zhaost, Xingyuan Zhao and 9 callers.

Mr. Witherwax stated that the next Environment, Sanitation & Transportation (EST) committee will be held on June 28, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. via WebEx. The committee will hear a presentation from the Department of Transportation on Open Streets. CB8 has a couple in Prospect Heights and a few new ones that will be operating this summer in Crown Heights. All are welcomed to attend on June 28th.

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

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Tamika Gibbs, present were, Kim Watson, Vice Chair, Frances Langley, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Kwasi Mensah, Aqsa Shahbaz, and Jamal Peterkin.

No report was submitted, however, Ms. Watson stated that the committee heard a presentation from Project Beat Street, they are program partners with Planned Parenthood. They discussed HIV/AIDS the current trends, the rates and preventative medication options for testing and where mobile trucks are located. A survey was conducted and it found that the number of new cases have gone down but that people are still be infected. The also discussed preventative ways in helping to stop the spread. In addition, they also do testing and offer support for other chronic illnesses like sickle cell.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2022 via Webex, at that meeting they plan to discuss agenda topics for the upcoming year. All are welcomed to attend.

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

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Acting Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Ken Lazar, Dian Duke, Frances Langley, Greg Todd, Adam Courtney, Patricia Constantine, Damaris Falero, DonChristian Jones, Ethel Tyus, Stacy Sheffey, Erica Reade, Janet Collins, Jonathan, L. Kim Robinson, Andrea Ferris, Princess Benn-James, Tiffany Forte, Assemblymember Stephani Zinnerman and 1 caller.

No committee report was submitted, however, Ms. Granville stated that she is happy to hear Assemblywoman Zinnerman discuss the program against predatory lending organizations and that the law was passed. She also reported that the committee had a lengthy discussion about predatory lending

practices and how the covid pandemic has had a very detrimental effect on small landlords. The committee also discussed the new property tax increase and the effect it will have on senior citizens who will have a difficult time maintaining the homes.

The next meeting of the Housing Advocacy Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Parks** – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Marva Brown-Henry, Mark Thurton, Karen Gray, Frances Langley, Andrea Ferris, Larry Weeks and 3 callers.

No report was submitted, however, Ms. Andrews stated that the Parks Committee along with Friends of Brower Park invites everyone to their Juneteenth Celebration celebrating fathers since it will be on father's day this year. The event will be held from 11am to 5pm near the Shirley Chisholm circle. They will have arts and crafts, storytelling, music, food trucks and so much more. The Brooklyn Public Library will also be out giving away books to the children. Everyone is welcome to attend.

She also mentioned that Lincoln Terrace Park Tennis Association is offering tennis lessons for children and adults every Saturday through August. The cost is \$50 for children and \$60 for adults. For more information, contact Charles East at 917-379-0094 or email [ce49614@aol.com](mailto:ce49614@aol.com).

She wished everyone a good summer. The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held in September.

### **Public Safety** – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton reported that the Public Safety Committee met virtually on Tuesday, May 23, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 pm. In addition to the Chair, Mark Thurton, present were: Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Janet Collins, Lisa Atkinson, Marva Brown-Henry, Princess Benn-James, Frances Langley, Sharon Wedderburn, Stephanie Grandpierre, Deputy Inspector Tony Brown and 1 caller.

No committee report was submitted, however, Mr. Thurton welcomed all the new members to the board and stated that the board has a lot of fantastic committees and Public Safety is one of them. He stated that the committee did not have any speakers for the May meeting but the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct did give the latest crime statistics. The committee discussed a future collaboration with the Seniors committee and ways to make our seniors safe.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

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

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm. at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. She also introduced the Vice Chair of the Committee Ms. Regina Kinsey. In addition to the chair Gail Branch-Muhammad, present at the meeting were: Andrea Ferris, Essie Spivey, Mildred Smith, Annabelle Boyd, Yvonne Bailey, Mary Bonham, Bryina Olivia Starks, Frances Langley, Elna Richardson, Hermina Smal, Gloria Freeman, Choi Fuk Tai, Wan Ming Chey, Xiao O. K, Guilda Williams, Clara Odom, Brenda Green, Loretta Fisher, Brenda White, Wella Robinson, Helen Selby, Jacqueline Love, Sharon Joseph, Ida Golson, Patricia Washington, Jennifer Jordan, Bridget Duncan, Phil Newman. **District Leaders:** Edu Hermelyn, Sarana Purcell and Anthony Beckford from Assemblyman Brian Cunningham's Office.

The following committee report was submitted:

Ms. Muhammad welcomed and greeted all in attendance. Game Night for the Seniors.

- District Leaders spoke about the upcoming election and gave out flyers.
- Community Board 8 and Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights – catered the food.
- Veda Harley-Howell of Harley Care Solution & MCare 1 handed out home care pamphlets.
- FunBash supplied the jumbo games.
- Juneteenth Event /Friends of Brower Park Sunday, June 19, 2022 11:00am - 5:00pm  
Art, Music, Food and Community

Have a nice safe summer and we will see you in September

**Veterans** – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Veteran's Committee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. In addition to the Chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Frances Langley and Julia Boyd.

No report was submitted, however, Ms. Granville mentioned that the committee heard a presentation from Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS). They discussed various housing programs that they offer. One is called the Home Help for Heros program that helps veterans make improvements in their homes to make them more accessible. Another is an affordable housing grant for homeowners that live in Brooklyn and live in a 1-4 family homes, co-op or condo. The money cannot be used for remodeling. It has to be used to address issues of deterioration or accessibility. It can also be used if there are any issues with violations. NHS also provides a maintenance training program for homeowners. For further information, please contact Mr. Tyrone McDonald, Government & Community Relations Manager at 718-469-4679.

The next meeting of the Veterans Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their committee reports and expressed how proud she is of all the committees and thanked them for the tremendous job they all have done this year. It is felt throughout the community and that she is really glad and proud to be partners and a part of it all.

She asked if anyone had any further questions, comments or announcements. Ms. Ortiz-Joyner announced that Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) is having their general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Gregory's the Great located at 999 St. John's Place corner of Brooklyn Avenue, special invited guest will be the Kings County District Attorney's office Real Estate Fraud Unit. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon also mentioned that Crown Heights North Association will be turning 20 this year. Twenty years of serving the community and fighting for housing and they are best known for landmarking in partnership with the Landmarks Preservation Commission. They have managed to lead the efforts in landmarking 3 quarters of north Crown Heights. The last phase is being worked on so Bravo to CHNA! There are 2 events in that celebration coming up: A movie night in Brower Park on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. The featured film will be Chisholm "72-Unbought & Unbossed honoring Shirley Chisholm the 1<sup>st</sup> black woman elected to Congress who hailed from Crown Heights. Also, there will be a gala on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, more information will be distributed about both events.

She wished everyone a happy Juneteenth and wish all the father's a happy father's day and adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

### **Guests Present**

Albert Appleton  
Mimi Mitchell  
Cassandra McFadden  
Celeste Loft  
Joel Clacken  
Kara Clark  
Elissa Knight  
Hollis Barclay  
Hellen King-Denman  
James Wene  
Jamell Henderson  
Jeanette Castillo  
Jonathan Gibbs  
Jennifer Jordan  
Raphael Famatigan  
L. Kim Robinson  
David Gross  
Ethods, S  
Tiffany Forte  
Natalie  
Tiara Mclaugh



Susan Patterson  
Dr. Zahirah McNatt  
9173\*\*\*\*53  
3479\*\*\*\*41  
7184\*\*\*\*11