

Community Board 8
General Community Board Meeting & Public Hearing
Casa Blanca
713 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11216

October 13, 2022

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Marva Brown-Henry
Dian Duke
Andrea Ferris
Michael Francoeur
Drew Gabriel
Nizjoni Granville
Colin Jakubczyk
Xeerxeema Jordan
Frances Langley
Mimi Mitchell
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Yahya Raji
Celene Rosado
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Mark Thurton
Ethel Tyus
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Members Excused/Absent

Abasenia Asuquo
Lisa Atkinson
Julia Boyd
Jacques Brunvil
Robert Callahan
Nora Daniel
Fred Frazier
Tamika Gibbs
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Regina Kinsey
Dr. Sarah Lazar
Kwasi Mensah
Keiona Morse
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Pebbles Russell
Adam Sachs
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Nicole Tetreault
Zahra Thani
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Vilma Zuniga

Agency & Elected Official Representatives

Det. Ruben Marte, 77th Precinct Comm Affairs
PO Khalida Wallen, 77th Precinct Comm Affairs
Karen Chambers, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
Leon Tulton, Councilmember Mealy, 41st District
Tasheika Gordon, Councilmember Osse, 36th District
Paurcha Edwards, Senator Myrie, 20th District

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson, at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting in over two years and expressed how good it is to see everyone in person once again. She opened the floor to public comments and announcements:

Public Comments

Ms. Tasheika Gordon introduced herself as the new Constituent Liaison at Councilmember Chi Osse office. She announced that Participatory Budgeting is back in the 36th District, and several upcoming meetings are scheduled to hear ideas and also instruct on filing. She distributed flyers and pitch forms, and informed the Board that the Councilmember is looking for ideas that target staunching gun violence. She advised everyone to use the email on the flyer to contact the office with any questions and to submit ideas.

Mr. Leon Tulton introduced himself as the Director of Constituent Services with Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's office and stated that although he is relatively new in his position, he is excited to be working with the community. He announced that the Councilwoman has three upcoming events, and anyone interested should call the office for additional information. The first event, to be held on October 19th, is the bi-weekly food pantry that occurs in front of the office from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The pantry usually occurs on the first and third Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday. The supply is first come, first served, and anyone in need of food or know someone in need of nutrition assistance, please stop by for provisions.

Secondly, the Councilwoman is hosting a free senior cruise on Friday, October 28th. There is still room left for several seniors to participate. To help spread the word, the office has been partnering primarily with senior centers to generate participation in the cruise. If you are a senior that attends a specific senior center in the 41st Council District or nearby, the director of the center will be able to share details on where and when to meet for the bus. Otherwise, please call the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097. Two buses will leave from in front of the Councilmember's office and others in front of prospective centers.

Thirdly, the Councilwoman is sponsoring a breast cancer screening van with services provided by the American-Italian Cancer Foundation on Friday, November 11th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of the Councilmember's office. You must call 877-628-9090 to pre-register for a screening. All eligible women are encouraged to call, all insurances are accepted, and your co-pay will be waived. Priority will be given to older women and those without insurance.

Ms. Karen Chambers, Constituent Liaison at Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office announced that the DA's office is willing to work with the community. All constituents are encouraged to call her at 718-250-4877 with any issues. Additionally, the DA's Office would like to partner with community groups that are hosting events, please contact her office for this partnership.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the elected official representatives for their updates and opened the floor for public comments and announcements.

Public Comments:

Mr. Robert Witherwax stated that it is nice to see everyone in person again in a public meeting for the first time in several years.

Ms. Deborah Young, President of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA), announced three upcoming events. CHNA will hold their general membership meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. at St Gregory's Church located at 999 St Johns Place corner of Brooklyn Avenue. Invited speakers are Stephanie Wilchfort, President & CEO Brooklyn Children's Museum, Bridge Street Development Corporation Oma Holloway, CEO, Conor Hassett, Commercial Revitalization Program Manager. For more information contact CHNA at 646-580-8229 or email info@crowheightsnorth.org. Additionally, the organization will be sponsoring a free Shredding Event on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 9am-12pm also at St. Gregory's. The event will only shred paper, not metal. Finally, the 1200 Dean Street Block Association in conjunction with CHNA, Friends of Brower Park and the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights, will sponsor a Doggie Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Brower Park. Please assemble at the Brooklyn Avenue and Prospect Place entrance. Puppy treats will be given to all participants.

Rabbi Eli Cohen from the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council announced that a new program offering free classes on "Starting a Business Grow Your Sales". The first class will begin on October 19th. Altogether, there will be 12 sessions throughout the year broken into different groups. The location is Albany Avenue at St. John's Place, but you do have to register. If you know anyone seeking to start or improve a business, please contact him at ECohen@CHJCC.ORG or Call 718-771-9000 ext. 7736. There is also a business counseling component as well.

Ms. Paurcha Edwards, introduced herself as the District Director from Senator Myrie's office, and stated that she is covering for Camille Barbin, the constituent liaison. Senator Myrie is working on the Predatory Marketing Prevention Act, which is asking the state to put into law helping to make sure that our children aren't being targeted by predatory food marketing. She gave the example of the area the Senator grew up in where there are nothing but unhealthy fast food options. As such, on October 18, 2022 Senator Zellnor Myrie, along with a compendium of community Stakeholders will host their Predatory Marketing and Prevention Act (PMPA) Roundtable discussion on the impact of junk food and predatory food marketing in the community. PMPA seeks to continue to spread awareness around food related disparities in the community. All are invited to attend the discussion which will be held from 6-8 p.m. at SUNY Downstate Auditorium located at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, contact the Senator's office at 718-284-4700.

Additionally, on October 27, 2022, the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Housing, Construction, and Community Development will hold a public hearing to receive public testimony on the issue of deed theft in New York State. Deed theft, also known as title fraud, is a predatory practice targeting rapidly gentrifying communities, especially Black and Brown homeowners in Brooklyn. The hearing will be at 10:00 a.m. at 250 Broadway in Lower Manhattan. If you or someone you know has been a victim of deed theft, you are encouraged to share written or in-person testimony. Written testimony can be submitted via email to myrie@nysenate.gov with "Deed Theft Public Hearing" in the subject line so that it can be filtered.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their comments and asked Ms. Neale for a roll call. After being notified that we did not have a quorum she opened the floor to committee reports:

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders asked Vice Chair, Drew Gabriel to give the committee report. Mr. Gabriel reported that the Economic Development Committee met virtually on Tuesday, October 10, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Brian Saunders, present were: Drew Gabriel, Celene Rosado, Frances Langley, Lisa Atkinson, Kim Robinson, Mark Thurton, Yahya Raji and Karen.

The committee submitted the following report:

During this meeting the following topics were discussed: NAMA street fair on August 20th was very successful. Celene Rosado gave an update on NAMA progress on getting the holiday lights. Celene thanked the Vice Chair for helping to secure half of the funding needed to get the holiday lights for Nostrand Avenue.

Celene brought up an issue regarding the businesses along Nostrand Ave not seeing a lot of foot traffic along the corridor and ways to increase foot traffic.

Chairperson Saunders mentioned that he participated in a resource fair that was sponsored by the Mayor's office at Atlantic Mall across from the Barclay Center to help businesses and residents. He would like to bring a resource fair of this kind to our district.

They would like to create a report on the economic impact of the housing being built. Working with the Citizens Budget Commission and the NYC Comptroller office to work on this report.

The committee would like to host a workshop on the ULURP process from an economic development standpoint. They also discussed the need to get more young people involved in the community board.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. All are welcomed to attend.

Environment, Sanitation and Transportation – Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax reported that the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee had a great 1st meeting virtually on September 27, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the Chair, Robert Witherwax, present were: Arlean Gillin, Aida Feldman, Angelica James, Brendan K, Bryan D, Carey Tan, Cyn D, Celeste Loft, Colin Jakubczyk, Claudette Workman, Desmond Atkins, D. Nelson, Ethel Tyus, Erin Cummins, Emily Weidenhof, Ilene Fernandez, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Glenda George, Gib Veconi, Igenie Harris-Blenman, Xeerxeema Jordan, Jennifer Jordan, Simone Barker-Sinclair, Priscilla Fernandez, P. James, Jordan Benkov, Josh McDaniel, Jessica Williams, Kyle Gorman, Regina Kinsey, Lee Eastmond, Leo and Lawrence Quigley, Mark Yarish, Michael Francoeur, Miriam Klein, Myles, Nicole Tetreault, Alan Gerber, Karen Gray, Danae Oratowski, Patrice Saunders, Pebbles Russell, Phil, Phoebe Montas, Peter Krashes, Saskia Haegens, Dani Spence, Steve Seaforth, Travis Grant and five callers.

The committee submitted the following report:

Mr. Witherwax stated that they had a good first meeting. They will be breaking up the committee into four subcommittees, one for each area of focus. Subcommittee's will meet in November and December.

A couple of 'to do' items that emerged, in no particular order:

- Follow up with Boro DOT on the Eastern Parkway signalization project. Can we reach out to Lee Eastmond and try to get a status update?
- Buffalo Ave / Lincoln Terrace: some of the proposed changes have been implemented, but the community has a few other requests that didn't make it into this phase. We would like to speak with the project managers to see if the mid-block crosswalk can be included; if so, when, and if not, why not. There is some dissatisfaction with the protected bike lane, but that's not going to be changed so soon.
- Traffic 'hot spots': B46 Utica Ave bus - faster to walk! Does DOT have any current plans to address this? If not, we would like to engage the Electeds (Utica Ave and St. Johns' intersection are in the 35th, 36th, and 41st Council districts!).
- Atlantic Ave: We need to make it clear to 35th and 36th that CB8 EST wants to meet at the table for any working group that are formed.
- DEP: Would like to get someone from DEP to attend a future meeting, and explain how constituent complaints about sewer back ups / basement flooding and sinkholes can be best handled.

The next meeting of the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Health and Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

Ms. Kim Watson, Vice Chair reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met virtually on Thursday, September 15, 2022 via Webex. In addition to the Chair Tamika Gibbs, present were: Frances Langlely, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Chanda Cragnotti, Halima Benjamin, Kim Robinson, Kwasi Mensah and 1 caller.

The committee did not submit a report, however, Ms. Watson stated that the committee was contacted by Ms. Alanna Kate Cruz, MA, MS-Candidate, Project Coordinator, Health Equity and Access to Care (HEAC) Study at CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy to discuss their Health Equity and Access to Care (HEAC) project. This project is funded by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a response to their racial equity initiatives and interest about segregation that occurs in healthcare settings. They are in the process of coordinating focus group meetings in the coming weeks for every day New Yorkers that will help develop the best plan going forward for improving health care access.

They are currently scheduling focus group meetings 7 days a week with morning, afternoon, and evenings to accommodate New Yorkers' schedules. To learn about the project and to participate, please visit: https://cunysph.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cRUnKMfa3fQfb5s

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on October 20, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Acting Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Housing Advocacy Committee met virtually on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Acting Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Dian Duke, Mimi Mitchell, Jack Robinson, Kim Robinson, Andrea Ferris and Dr. Sarah Lazar.

The committee did not submit a report, however, she thanked the district office for mailing out the three booklets regarding housing, zoning and ULURP. While some folks have read the material, some feel too intimidated and they are seeking suggestions on how to ameliorate the disconnect.

She mentioned that the Borough President's office has been giving basic training to the members, she expressed the need for additional training. She also suggested that when information is provided to you, at least look at it and ask questions.

The next meeting of the Housing Committee will be held on October 12, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews reported that the Parks Committee met virtually on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, present were: Alexis-McKenzie Paulin-Edwards, Colin Jakubczyk, Deborah Kirschner, Prospect Park Alliance, Frances Langley, Marva Brown-Henry, Michael Francoeur, Nizjoni Granville, Karen, Mark Thurton, and 2 callers.

The committee did not submit a report, however, Ms. Andrews stated that the committee has been brainstorming what to do next year. The Earth day celebration is being planned for April 2023. They are also planning to have a field day for kids at Brower Park. The committee plans to work with the Parks Department to do a tour of all the parks in the district to ascertain the condition of each.

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

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Atkins, Vice Chair reported that the Public Safety Committee met virtually on Tuesday, September 26, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Candace Sandy, Detective Felicia Richards, NYPD PSA2, Desmond Atkins, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Igenie Harris-Blenmen, Jennifer Jordan, Kim Robinson, Lisa Atkinson, Gail Muhammad, Deputy Inspector Tony Brown, 77th Precinct, Nizjoni Granville, PO Tiffani Austin, NYPD PSA2 and Nicole Tetreault.

The committee submitted a report and Mr. Atkins reminded everyone that October is Fire Safety Prevention month. He expressed his disappointment that we did not have someone from the FDNY to give presentation on fire safety. He urged everyone to read the newsletter as there is information on fire safety. He expressed the importance of having a "Go Bag", it is one of the easiest ways to be proactive in terms of fire.

He stated Public Service Areas (PSA's) are the policing sections that cover public housing. Weeksville houses on the northern end of Bergen Street between Troy and Schenectady Avenues is no longer under public housing. They have been transferred to a private entity. This was conveyed by Det. Richards of PSA2.

Mr. Atkins also stated that crime is pretty much down in 77th Precinct overall. He referenced the tragic shooting on Eastern Parkway at Rochester Avenue last month and the need and urgency of reaching out to the youth. We also need to check in on young people because suicide is up.

Finally, Mr. Atkins stated that many of the streets in the district are backed up with cars leaving no place for emergency vehicles to go when they are rushing to get to emergencies.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the 4th Monday of each month. All are welcomed to attend.

Mr. Witherwax followed up on Mr. Atkins comments that emergency vehicles can't pass through our streets because there are too many cars on the road. Why? Transit is not strong enough in the community. There needs to get better transit options to get folks out of their cars, this would help alleviate the overcrowding of our roadway and help clear a pathway for emergency vehicles and also increase response times.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 pm. at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. The meeting centered around breast cancer awareness. The seniors were asked to wear or bring something pink to the meeting. They played breast cancer bingo. She thanked Celene Rosado from Sweet Brooklyn Bar for providing the food for the meeting. The next meeting will be focused on voting. All are welcomed to attend on Wednesday, November 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Veterans – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Veteran's Committee did not meet for the month of September. However, she mentioned that the committee will be joining Community Board's 3 and 16 for their annual Veterans Appreciation Parade, which will take place on Saturday, November 5th at 12pm beginning at Park Place and Ralph Avenue down to Fulton Street. The Parade will end with a resource fair at Boys and Girls High School from 1-4pm. They will have 5 grand marshals and a keynote speaker. For more information, please contact Community Board 16 at 718-385-0323. The next Veterans Committee meeting will be held on October 17, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Youth and Education – Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Brown-Henry, Vice Chair reported that the Youth and Education Committee met virtually on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 via WebEx. In addition to the chair, Nora Daniel, present were: Marva Brown-Henry Vice Chair, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Jennifer Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, Mark Thurton and Tiffany Forte.

The committee did not submit a report, however, Ms. Brown-Henry mentioned that the committee has been talking to youth about careers in technology. They are also planning several events in the upcoming months and they are working on a college fair.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that every Tuesday the New York Times has a science times section. He would like to see all schools take advantage of free publication delivery.

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 via WebEx. All are welcomed to attend.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committee's for their reports and welcomed the 77th Precinct Community Affairs officers, inviting them to say a few words.

Detective Ruben Marte and Police Officer Khalida Wallen, 77th Precinct Community Affairs

Det. Marte brought greetings on behalf of the 77th Precinct, he and PO Wallen wish everyone a healthy and safe rest of the week. He has been working at the 77th Precinct for about 15 years, and is newly assigned to the Community Affairs Unit. He and his partner PO Wallen deal with several issues on a daily basis, and are working closely with the board, council, and clergy to resolve several issues. Community Affairs is here to bridge gaps in community-police relations. They can be reached at 718-735-0636 or 0634 or by cell at 929-291-8481 (Marte) or 917-683-6757 (Wallen).

Mr. Atkins asked Det. Marte and Officer Wallen to please speak about the Domestic Violence Unit. Det. Marte informed him at the DV unit consists of 6 officers and they work with Safe Horizon, a community organization providing a network of services. Also, a Domestic Violence advocate is in the precinct daily from 6 am to 11 pm.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Det. Marte and Officer Wallen for their participation in the meeting and asked for roll call to establish a quorum. After establishing a quorum she opened the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Items:

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 to discuss New York State's Open Meetings Law. The New York State Governor suspended the Open Meetings Law in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has allowed public bodies to meet via videoconferencing without disclosing individual locations for public access. Unfortunately, unless extended again, the suspension is set to expire at the end of this month.

Consequently, the Executive Committee proposes a resolution that would authorize the Community Board to suspend in person meetings and hearings and hold virtual meetings and hearings due to any State of Emergency issued by either the State and/or City of New York in conformance with amendments to the New York State Open Meetings Law (Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022).

Mr. Witherwax asked how the reversion to virtual meetings would take place if a state of emergency is in effect. Specifically, he asked if it would be automatic that we go virtual, and if not, what would be

the trigger? Chairperson Weatherspoon informed him that the Executive Committee would come together and make the decision.

Mr. Atkins expressed his confusion about open meetings, inquiring if we are back to meeting in person. He was informed that the Open Meetings suspension expires at the end of the month, and unless extended, we will go back to meeting in-person. For further clarity, he asked if the provision to be voted on would allow either in-person meetings or Webex only meetings, and he was informed that the provision gives us the option to choose to either meet in person or meet virtually depending on the conditions. For instance, he was informed that a recent state of emergency was just issued for Polio and this is on the heels of the Monkey Pox state of emergency that was just extended. This resolution would give us the option to choose based on what is going on at any given time.

Mr. Staton asked if the resolution is across the board for the city or just for CB8. He was informed that it is just for CB8. Several other boards have created their own resolutions regarding OML.

Ms. Mitchell asked how this resolution would affect the Board moving forward in reference to in-person or virtual, specifically if the resolution would allow us to meet virtually post-exemption expiration. Ms. George informed her that as long as there is a state of emergency (SOE) in effect, we can opt to meet virtually, and if there is no SOE, we must meet in person. Ms. Mitchell countered stating that her understanding is a little different, and that we would only need to have a certain number present (26 members) in person but could still have a hybrid meeting with other members participating virtually.

Ms. George stated that she was told that presently, the Mayor would prefer that city agencies, including community boards, not engage in hybrid type meetings. Additionally, she added that it is extremely difficult to find a suitable meeting space to accommodate in-person meetings, let alone a hybrid set-up. All meeting spaces should be ADA accessible and we really do not have a space like that, referencing the evening's meeting space as an example. Furthermore, for hybrid meetings, a location would have to provide us with internet access without firewalls and the Board would also need the necessary streaming equipment. There are several other issues that might impede a hybrid meeting, including how to choose the 26 members that must attend in person and accommodate "life happenings." There are many variables and moving parts that are unpredictable.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Mayor Adams does not decide how the Board is run. She also stated that virtual meetings allowed for greater community participation, raising interest and awareness of the Board. Collectively, we should take this into consideration when electing to rule out hybrid meetings. Granted, we have a responsibility to consider seniors and potential technology disconnects, but many seniors have gotten the hang of it and have embraced it. In response to some of the difficulties of hybrid meetings espoused by Ms. George, Ms. Mitchell suggested that it would be great to alternate in-person attendance to ensure we have a quorum, to have a rotation of members to have the numbers we need to be here. If everyone does what they need to do, this model could be very successful.

Ms. George agreed with Ms. Mitchell that the rotating model could work in theory, however, she stated that we must also keep in mind that when a quorum (a majority of the membership) is needed we all know that life happens, that emergencies happen, people get sick, family members get sick, which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting and it would be impossible to know from month to month which member would be able to attend a meeting. Additionally, the hybrid model requires a member slated to attend to notify and inform the office at least four (4) business days in advance of the meeting that they will not be able to attend

Therefore, Ms. George reminded everyone that before the Board can even consider a hybrid meeting style, we must first pass this resolution. In essence, we needed to meet in person to decide not to meet in person.

Ms. Duke asked if it was possible for Ms. George to arrange for the Board to meet at one location rather than alternating spaces to ensure we have the technology we need to operate hybrid meetings. Ms. Duke referenced that the evening's facility appears to have the necessary technology accommodations for hybrid. Ms. George informed her that in addition to technology, the location would also have to be handicap/ADA accessible, which the evening's location was not. The issue is finding a location with all the necessary components rather than sacrificing one or more.

Ms. Andrews asked if the discussion applies to committees, and was informed that it does not, just to the full Board. Committee can continue to meet virtually.

Ms. Tyus stated that health experts are expecting an uptick in Covid-19 cases as the weather gets colder and the holiday season approaching. She asked if the Board could prioritize the elderly and sickly to meet virtually and have younger, healthier members constitute the 26 needed for quorum. Ms. George stated that members would still have to notify the Board four business days in advance to request to be virtual.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she would love to support the Executive Committee's recommendation, but stated that she felt a discussion about the chat function during virtual meetings should be held as she is not comfortable making a motion to remain virtual until the chat function is resolved. Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that the two issues are not connected.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the resolution as put forth by the Executive committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Henry and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Land Use – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, October 6, 2022 virtually via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Albert Appleton, Pierre Albert, Amber Mazor, Andrew Wright, Mimi Mitchell, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Traci N., Dan McCombie, Austin Coury, Deborah Young, Medea D, Councilwoman Crystal Hudson, Robert Callahan, Ethel Tyus, Ella Levitt, Elie Pariente, Elaine Weinstein, Fayanne Betan, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Frances Langley, Carter Clarke, Greg Parente, Inna Guzenfeld, BP office, Jack Hessel, Jack Robinson, John Buckholz, Jennifer and Xeerxeema Jordan, Lisa Atkinson, Nizjoni Granville, Peter Krashes, Sarah Lazur, Michael Francoeur, Nix Laemmie, Richard Goodstein, Yoel Teintellbaum, Jonah Rogoff, City Planning, Julia Rohl, Katherine Lewandowski, Kim Robinson, Leah Archibald, Liz Denys, Kwasi Mensah, Michal M, Princess James, Nadine Oelsner, Nora Daniel, Karen Gray, Ola Trofi, Richard Lobel, Gerianne Scott, Bill Oelsner and 2 caller.

The committee brings forth the following applications to be heard by the Landmarks Preservation Commission:

**Landmarks Preservation Commission – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness:
1450 Pacific Street located in the Crown Heights North I Historical District**

Mr. Richard Goodstein of nC2 Architecture, LLC presented on behalf of the applicant. This presentation is updated to reflect concerns expressed by the committee at the September meeting. This item will come before the Landmarks Preservation Commission on October 23, 2022.

This project will include a full gut renovation of the interior. The house will remain a two-family home. The exterior's renovation will reflect:

1. A rooftop enlargement;
2. The addition of a roof deck over the garage not original of the building;
3. Make changes to the front wall more in keeping with the original design of the building.

After the applicant's presentation and questions from meeting attendees that included color of proposed railings on the rooftop and roof deck on top of the garage, presentation of materials to Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) and visibility from nearby corner. A motion was made to support the application by Ms. Elaine Weinstein and seconded by Ms. Nicole "Nix" Laemmie. Mr. Robert Callahan made an amendment to the motion that Crown Heights North Association receive the materials in advance of the CB8 general meeting, and Ms. Deb Young on behalf of CHNA made a commitment to review the materials prior to the general meeting. The amendment was acceptable to the motion maker and the second was reiterated.

The committee voted 19 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation. Mr. Mazur the owner of this property expressed gratitude of the community and looks forward to living in the community.

Ms. Wedderburn informed the Board that CHNA had written a letter regarding the application, and invited Ms. Young to read the organization's statement. After reading the letter, Ms. Young stated that for purposes of clarity on the motion, CHNA appreciates some of the work on the property, but still has concerns over certain aspects and are opposed to the extension of the rooftop and opposed to the deck for the garage. Furthermore, they acknowledged that the applicant did indeed reduce the visibility of the rooftop, but the organization cannot, in good consciousness, approve the deck over the garage.

Mr. Goodstein, the representative for the applicant, read a statement for the record and asked that the statement be included in the Board's minutes. The response to the CHNA letter is as follows:

"Dear CHNA and Community Board 8,

"Thank you for the letter regarding this proposed renovation of 1450 Pacific Street. I am not sure exactly what is the procedure for responding to it, my understanding is that normally I would have had the option to address any concerns during the committee hearing, however this letter is written after the fact. So please allow me to respond.

"Specifically to the comments raised I would like to say the following:

"1. Attic extension - It is simply not true that we insisted that the roof extension would not be visible from the public way. If this were the case there would be no requirement for a Landmarks hearing. The presentation, as well

as the physical mockup which is still in place, clearly show the visibility points, however we made every effort to minimize this visibility to a level that has minimal effect to a person looking at this building from the street. We removed the originally proposed bulkhead, we reduced the size of the roof deck, pushed back the railing and changed the materials (to wood boards) so it will blend as best as possible with the upper cornice.

“The presentation shows that the proposed changes are only visible from two spots: the first is from the area of the bus station on Kingston Ave. which is about 170ft away. This is only a very narrow angle (before the view disappears between the adjacent buildings), and from such a far distance, it is barely noticeable (unless one intentionally zooms in with a camera). The second spot is from the left side of the building. Here, only a small upper portion of the left side of the attic extension is visible. It has a square shape like the building itself, and we intentionally used appropriate material, wood clapboards (that is typical to historic roof addition), not metal or brick, and will paint it the same color as the cornice to make sure it blends.

“The rear view of the building is not visible at all from any street, and therefore not relevant to the Landmarks hearing. We do propose using historically appropriate materials: wood clapboards, and windows similar in size and shape to the rest of the building. All painted with matching historic colors to the rest of the building. Railing will be painted light grey to minimize visibility.

“2. The garage roof deck -

“We absolutely agree that one of the nicest features of the house - is the porch. The extent to which we go to preserve it is extreme. We plan to strip it entirely and to restore its deteriorated condition to its original condition and appearance. LPC already approved our proposed multicolor porch cornice (instead of the current plain white). When it is done, it will be grand and beautiful. We also intend to remove the trees and bushes on the side yard so more of the wrap around porch will be exposed to the street. Also we propose to lower the whole front yard so the porch as a main element will be much more prominent. Given these dramatic changes the wrap-around porch will be much more visible and dominant, and the garage as a non-historic addition will become much more secondary. The proposed railing on top of the garage is only partially visible. Only the upper section of it is visible from the street, from all sides, and it is not going to make the garage more "distracting" from the main facade than it is now. Instead of 'hiding' the garage we plan to make it more historic looking by restoring the brick facade shape, parapets and most importantly the garage original doors. This will have a much more appealing look to the garage element and connect it to the main facade, contrary to the idea that it will distract from it.

Also, addressing the point that the presentation shows only examples of other historic districts, please see attached two examples of deck over garage from Crown Heights neighborhood (936 Lincoln Pl and 1115 Sterling pl).

“3. As a preservationist and a developer who specializes in challenging historic projects, such as the rescue of the Elkins House, I must say that the undertaking of this project is not simple and not cheap. To say we are trying to "eke more square footage out of the house" is an unfair characterization. We are going above and beyond the average renovation and making a huge (and costly) effort to recapture the historical essence of the house in every detail.

The stripping of the entire wrap-around woodwork, restoring the cornices and bays, replacing the roll-garage gate with custom barn doors, modifying the front yard and adding historic ironwork - all are not necessary! Yet, I would like to spend the resources and effort to do it. What is necessary in order for that to happen, is to modify the unusable attic floor, and add a deck above the garage - all in a historically appropriate manner. This is not much to ask, and a win-win to the community.

*“I hope that this letter will impact the way CHNA views this project.
Would it be possible to read it into the protocol in the community hearing?
Unfortunately I am not in the country to speak in person so this would be my response.*

*“Thank you so much for your attention and consideration.
“Amber Mazor, Owner”*

After reading the response into the record, Mr. Goodstein stated that several of the facts presented in the response are not reflected in CHNA’s letter, and despite several of the demands of the organization, they are still opposed to the project that maintains the property as a two family house with a roof accessible to the residents of the property.

Ms. Tyus encouraged the Board to take the opportunity to accept Mr. Callahan’s amendment to allow CNHA’s review, and asked the applicant to remove the deck over the garage. Ms. Young stated that CHNA is willing to work collaboratively, and would be willing to support the rooftop extension but staunchly opposes the deck on the garage.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the rooftop extension and not creating a deck on top of the garage. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus. After several members expressed confusion on the motion and what their vote would mean, Mr. Witherwax clarified the motion on the floor to support the project with the exception of the deck over the garage. The original motion maker and seconder accepted the clarification, and the motion passed with 20 in favor, 4 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

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

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

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked Vice Chair Robert Witherwax to give the following report. Mr. Witherwax reported that the SLAC Committee met on Monday, September 12, 2022 and again on Monday, October 3, 2022 via Webex Virtual Meeting platform. The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. Renewal application for Ras Plant Based located at 739 Franklin Avenue (between Park and Sterling Places) – Full license

The committee voted to support the application with the following conditions:

- a. Removal of outdoor amplified sound
- b. Ensure that the establishment maintain NYC Dept. of Transportation’s regulated sidewalk clearance
- c. Assure good stewardship of outdoor space during hours of operation
- d. Agree to participate in mediation if neighboring business initiates

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. The owners of the establishment were present at the full Board meeting and stated that they were willing to enter mediation with their neighbor. Ms. Mitchell asked them to confirm what they plan on doing to address

the issues with the neighbors, and was informed that they have already moved two seating tables to allow individuals to stand on their side of the property line. They have also removed the speakers.

Ms. Rosado asked the SLAC Committee to be clear what it means to be compliant, and where the burden of compliance lies. She was informed that whether or not the neighbor contacts them for mediation, they have satisfied the conditions since they have taken the immediate tangible measures to ameliorate the problem.

Ms. Henry made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried with a final vote of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

1. New Liquor License for Chipotle located at 250 Utica Avenue (corner of Lincoln Place) – Beer/Wine/Cider application

Details of the application include:

- Hours of operation: 10 am to 10pm daily
- 9 tables with 29 seats as well as window facing counter stools; max capacity 56
- Three 15 watt ceiling speakers in dining room area
- 6-7 employees per shift

The committee voted to support the application with the requirement that the fast food chain take care of garbage and waste, and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Mr. Atkins asked if the garbage and waste at Chipotle is containerized since it is on a busy commercial strip with a heavy rat burden. He was informed that the expectation for the refuse is that it will be housed in standard plastic garbage bags and put curbside for pickup by their private carting company. This is the same management as the Chipotle in Prospect Heights on Flatbush Avenue at Park Place.

Ms. Mitchell made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

2. New application for La Mode, 1401 Bedford Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place) – Full license

Details of the application include:

- Live music "acoustic duo" performances and occasional karaoke
- 20 tables with two to four seats at each; one service bar with 18 seats. Maximum capacity is 105 patrons
- Maximum licensed hours of operation Noon to 2 am Sunday through Wednesday; Noon to 3 am Thursday through Saturday
- Establishment hours are scheduled to be Noon to midnight daily
- 8x24 foot Open restaurant seating that will close by 9 pm daily with an additional 20 seats

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

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. The owner of the establishment made a correction to the business name that was listed. She stated that the name should be La Mode BK. Mr. Witherwax stated that the board will make the correction.

Ms. Muhammad made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gabriel and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

3. New application for Rum Bar BK, 733 Franklin Avenue (between Park and Sterling Places) – Full license

Details of the application include:

- 25 seats at tables, with one service bar with 16 seats. Maximum patron capacity is 75
- Hours of operation Noon to 2 am daily
- 8x23 foot open restaurant seating with an additional 18 seats that will close by 10 pm daily

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

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, Ms. Muhammad made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

4. New application for Little Egg, 657 Washington Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street) – Full license

Details of the application include:

- 22 seats at 11 tables, with one service bar with an additional 6 seats; maximum patron capacity is 35
- Establishment's regular hours will be 8 am to 4 pm daily, with hosted events such as chef pop-ups, book clubs, and community events, which will occur outside of regular hours but to end by 11 pm
- Licensed garden/grounds area with an additional 20 seats
- 7x16 foot Open restaurants seating with an additional 14 seats with standard operating hours as the establishment

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

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, Ms. Muhammad made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

5. New application for Taqueria Milear, 752-752A Nostrand Avenue (between Park and Sterling Places) – Full license

Details of the application:

- 8 tables with 4 seats each and a standing bar

- Hours of operation: 11 am to 11 pm Sunday through Thursday; 11 am to 12:30 am Friday and Saturday

The committee voted to support the application in the hopes that the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Witherwax asked if there were any comments or questions from the community. Hearing none, Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duke and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

Ratification of Actions at July SLAC and Land Use meetings

Community Board 8's By-Laws permit the Land Use and SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committees executive authority to meet and speak on behalf of the full Board during the summer hiatus. The following items were voted on at the July 21, 2022 Land Use meeting and July 25, 2022 SLAC meeting:

- LPC "forgiveness" application for 863 Sterling Place, for approval to correct Landmark violations relating to fencing, storefront windows, new commercial door, security camera placement, alteration to the storefront, including work above the storefront windows. The committee voted not to support the application as the Board does not usually approve work done without proper permits.
- LPC application for 236 Albany Avenue to legalize the storefront and windows. The committee voted to table the application until the applicant has had the opportunity to correct all the LPC violations and consult several window vendors for appropriate window replacement estimates.
- Alteration application for Finn's Corner, 662 Washington Avenue. The application is for the expansion of the backyard space and addition of a pool table in the yard. The committee voted to support the application.
- New application for Barboncino, 781 Franklin Avenue, for a full license. The application is a change of ownership, with the new principles keeping the original establishment name. The committee voted to support the application.
- New application for Lakou, 195 Utica Avenue, for a full license. The committee voted to support the application.
- Alteration application for Savvy Bistro, 710 Nostrand Avenue. Three components of the application were approved by the committee: a) addition of karaoke and DJ music; b) addition of licensed security personnel; and c) addition of a frozen drink machine.

The Land Use and SLAC Committees hope the full Board will ratify their actions.

Ms. Watson asked why Savvy Bistro needed licensed security. She was informed that licensed security is required for an establishment that has a full license and meets a certain metric. It needs to be written on the license and the proprietors want it.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to ratify the committees' actions from the summer meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gabriel and carried unanimously with 26 in favor.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked the committee chairs for their reports and opened the public hearing for the capital and expense budget.

FY 2024 Budget: Capital and Expense:

Ms. Weatherspoon called the Public Hearing on the prioritization of the Capital and Expense Budget for FY 2024 to order. She asked Ms. George to explain the process. Ms. George explained the difference between capital and expense budget items giving examples. She also reminded everyone to prioritize their top three Capital and top three Expense items. Chairperson Weatherspoon then asked the following people to read last year's submissions: Kim Watson, Gail Muhammad, Nizjoni Granville, Marva Brown-Henry, Mark Thurton, Robert Witherwax, Sharon Wedderburn and Glinda Andrews.

The public was given an opportunity to add additional requests and list their top priorities from what had been read and would be resubmitted (See Attached). The following additions and prioritizations were made:

- Mr. Atkins asked for verbiage suggesting new regulations from the City Council and State Legislative to create new rules and regulations for trash disposal, especially by commercial properties and in mixed-use commercial corridors. He also added that CB8 become a pilot board for DSNY to test GOAT cleaners, and for the number of GOAT cleaners requested to be increased from one to three. Additionally, he requested that institution of early science learning starting in 3-K and up to 5th grade. Finally, he added the reinstatement of section supervisors to maintain ASP regulations on the street, including mixed use building requirements.
- Ms. Andrews added a drainage system for the sprinkler at Underhill Playground .
- Ms. Young requested an increase in bus shelter seating in bus stations.
- Ms. Brown-Henry requested a new playground in Brower Park, specifically a toddler playground, citing injuries to kids getting cut due to exposed metal on several apparatuses. Also related to Brower Park, she requested electronic signage around the park, like the Link system.
- Ms. Tyus stated that a high priority should be assigned for cleaning catch basins, especially the north/south commercial corridors as well as Underhill Avenue.
- Ms. Muckle stated that a high priority should be assigned for afterschool and kids programs.

Ms. Wedderburn made a motion empowering the District office to submit the final document to the Dept. of City Planning using the information gathered via the evening's public hearing and several surveys distributed to the community to prioritize the top capital and expense items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witherwax and carried unanimously with 26 in favor.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their submissions and priorities. She then opened the floor to public comments.

Public comments

Ms. Denise Muckle announced she is the CEO and President Albany Youth Association. This year they are sponsoring a safe Halloween event on October 31st in front of 1325 Eastern Parkway from 4 to 9 p.m. with the objective to give kids a safer place to gather, get candy and show off their costumes while their parents socialize and get to know each other. This prevents kids from having to go door to door and risk stranger danger. Simultaneously occurring with the party will be fire safety education by the FDNY.

Ms. Celene Rosado, Acting President with the North Nostrand Avenue Merchants Association announced that the organization has fund raised enough money to get Christmas lights stating "Destination Nostrand" installed on the corridor this year. The lights will be installed on every other block starting at Pacific Street to Eastern Pkwy. Additionally, there will be a children's Halloween party hosted at Bar 704 on Halloween day from 3-7 pm in partnership with North Nostrand Avenue Merchants. She also stated that Bridge Street Development Corporation was awarded an \$100,000 to service five (5) corridors in CB8. Additionally, Sweet Brooklyn Bar does a warm food donation every Monday volunteers are needed to serve and package the food. For more information, please contact her at celenerosado@sweetbkbar.com.

Jack Robinson inquired about why the Land Use Committee changed its recommendation and vote for 1450 Pacific Street. He was asked why he didn't speak up when that item was on the floor. He stated that he didn't hear the Chair call for questions from the community. He was told that he could have raised his hand to ask his question.

Mr. Chris Lorient announced his organization, Outdoorskates, which currently operates out of Lincoln Terrace Park and has for the last two years. Outdoorskates rents roller skates and gives lessons in public spaces and parks spaces, and he stated that he believes the program can be integrated into several services that provide what the community needs. He stated that he hopes to find a location in the community for continued health, wellness and fun. One of their initiatives is to validate roller-skating not only as a form of therapy, but also health and wellness. They do not charge for entry, and only charge for skate rental if you book in advance. Both Paurcha Edwards and Ms. Ferris encouraged Mr. Lorient to partner with the recreation centers for outreach and greater base of clientele. To contact him, email him at outdoorskates@gmail.com or call 347-741-1351.

Ms. Kayla Thomas announced that she is a sociologist doing a project on long term Crown Heights residents. If you are interested in participating in the project, either call her at 646-541-5483 or email her at kayla.thomas@yale.edu.

Mr. Omar Hardy of the former Black Lady Theater announced that they partner with several organizations including Sweet Brooklyn Bar on food distributions in the community. They distribute food in front of the old theater at 746 Nostrand Avenue every Thursday.

Ms. Nizjoni Granville reminded everyone that participatory budgeting is underway and sadly, too often, CB8 is not well represented in the process. Ms. Young stated that you cannot stop after submitting a proposal; instead, you and your neighbors must continue to show up to support your proposal during each round of voting.

Ms. Glinda Andrews, CB8 Parks Committee Chairperson, announced that she would be retiring from the Dept. of Finance after 36 years.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Guests Present

Beverley James
Cheryl Walcott
Lynn Ma
Peter Tulloch
Evone Peebles
Gail Doran
Jennifer Jordan
Amanda St. Louis
Aval Brown
David Espinosa
Richard Goodstein
Jack Robinson
Denise Muckle
Pierre Albert
Omar Hardy
Michelle Mathinson
Arna Lipkind
Linda Kirk
Rabbi Eli Cohen