

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

September 8, 2022

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Abasenia Asuquo
Desmond Atkins
Lisa Atkinson
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Marva Brown-Henry
Jacques Brunvil
Robert Callahan
Nora Daniel
Dian Duke
Andrea Ferris
Michael Francoeur
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Igenie Harris-Blenman
Colin Jakubczyk
Xeexema Jordan
Dr. Sarah Lazur
Kwasi Mensah
Mimi Mitchell
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Yahya Raji
Celene Rosado
Pebbles Russell
Brian Saunders
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Nicole Tetreault
Mark Thurton
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Excused/Absent

Julia Boyd
Fred Frazier
Regina Kinsey
Frances Langley
Keiona Morse
Adam Sachs
Meredith Staton
Zahra Thani
Vilma Zuniga

Elected Officials

Councilman Chi Osse, 36th Council District
Councilwoman Crystal Hudson, 35th Council District
Senator Jabari Brisport, 25th Senatorial District
Assemblywoman Stephani Zinerman, 56th District
Assemblyman Brian Cunningham, 43rd District

Agency & Elected Official Representatives

Tony Herbert, Office of the Mayor - CAU
Deanna Foote, Brooklyn Borough President
Andrew Wright, Councilwoman Crystal Hudson
Alejandro Gonzalez, Councilwoman Crystal Hudson
Karen Chambers, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
Nicole Wright, Assemblywoman Stephani Zinerman

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order by Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson, at 6:15 p.m. She welcomed everyone back from summer break and stated that she is looking forward to the new meeting season. She acknowledged the elected officials and representatives that were present and asked each to say a few words.

Councilmember Chi Osse – 36th Council District

Councilmember Osse thanked Chairperson Weatherspoon for the opportunity to address the Board. He stated that September arrived so quickly that it feels like summer flew by. The Councilmember announced that he was able to hire 16 employees from the Summer Youth Employment Program this summer, and with their assistance, his office was able to kick off its Free Wifi for NYCHA” (FWFN) campaign. FWFN is a federal program with money earmarked and set aside to go toward making sure public housing residents get free wifi. If you are a NYCHA resident, specifically one in Albany Houses and are interested in obtaining free wifi, please contact his office at 718-919-0740 for information on enrolling.

Wellness Wednesday continues to operate every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Restoration Plaza. Great produce and even salmon as a meat option are available at the food distributions. If you would like to volunteer, his staff would be excited to work with you as volunteers are always needed.

Every Tuesday from Noon to 6 p.m., a Spanish-bilingual affordable housing expert is in the office to provide housing advice. Walk-ins are welcome, but please call the office to schedule an appointment to ensure you are seen. Additionally, every other Thursday, an attorney is present in the office to provide free legal advice on a plethora of legal issues, including housing, immigration, and criminal matters to name a few.

In terms of legislation, the Councilmember announced that he and several of his colleagues are pushing a 5 Bill Rat Action Plan. The “rat pack” of councilmembers are working on it across the city, and the bills will come to a vote next month. If passed, the hope is that the five initiatives will bring great services to CB8.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilmember Osse for his report and invited Councilmember Hudson to say a few words.

Councilmember Crystal Hudson - 35th Council District

Councilmember Hudson announced that recent legislation was passed and signed into law requiring doula access during pregnancy and birth. She stated that this legislation is integral in addressing black female pregnancy and birth mortality rates in Brooklyn. It mandates the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to inform people about the role of doulas during pregnancy and birth and also the care and services provided by doulas. As Black women are 8-12 times more likely to die during childbirth than non- black women, access to this type of health service is quite important.

Another recently passed piece of legislation are a number of Aging bills that will accomplish the following: 1) to guarantee housing security and provide full free legal representation to older New Yorkers. This expands the Right to Council Bill to anyone over the age of 60 regardless of their income. 2) Requires the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) to update their “Know Your Rights”

pamphlet and requires the agency to send the information out automatically once you reach the required age. 3) Requires DFTA to provide culturally relevant information in senior centers. The Councilmember stated that these bills will go a long way in keeping our seniors and elderly populations safe and engaged, as well as informed.

Participatory budgeting (PB) is back. The office is looking for volunteers and budget delegates for the process that runs from September to May. There are several phases of PB, and we are in the first phase, collecting ideas and hosting assemblies. The voting will begin in 2023 on the projects to be awarded and funded.

Councilmember Hudson informed the Board that she and her colleague, Councilmember Osse, are actively working on an Atlantic Avenue Re-zoning and will be starting it in earnest later this month with steering committees and working groups. As we get closer to dates and events, information for signing up will be shared with the community.

A housing specialist is in the office every Wednesday from Noon to 6:30 p.m. Additionally, every Thursday, an attorney from CUNY Law that specializes in housing issues but also knowledgeable in multiple other areas including immigration, is in the office. Please call 718-260-9191 to schedule an appointment.

Her office will be launching a Rat Task Force in District 35. While she is not a member of the Council's "Rat Pack," she acknowledged that everyone is trying to address the rat plague in the city. Anything we can do to address the issues besides legislation is helpful, including encouraging all property owners to utilize and rely solely on containers for their garbage, ensuring that they clean in front of their property, addressing curbside dining issues, etc.

Finally, Councilmember Hudson announced that she will be at Afropunk to discuss issues with the community. Additionally, Coffee with Crystal will be on September 17th at 9 a.m. at R&D Foods located at 606 Vanderbilt Avenue.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Councilmember Hudson for her updates and invited Senator Brisport to say a few words.

Senator Jabari Brisport – 25th Senatorial District

Senator Jabari Brisport wished everyone a Happy first day of school, stating that summer may be over, but climate change is not. As such, he is partnering with his colleague in the Council, Councilmember Chi Osse and Link Tree on a "Save Energy" community meeting and Teach-in. The meeting will be held at Restoration Plaza on Monday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m. Discussion topics include the National Grid NBK Pipeline and Con Edison's rates hikes. To register for participation, visit www.linktr.ee/conedratehike.

The cost of childcare is skyrocketing and unaffordable for many parents. Senator Brisport stated that he and several others in the Senate feel childcare should be free at the point of service just like public schools. As such, there will be a statewide strategy summit on Sunday, October 2nd to fight for free childcare for all parents. For more information or to register to attend, email teambrisport@nysenate.gov.

Finally, Senator Brisport announced that Senate District 25 is experimenting with participatory budgeting. To volunteer for the PB team, visit www.bit.ly/sd25-volunteer, or call the office at 718-643-6140.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Senator Brisport for his updates and opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Deanna Foote, Director of Constituent Affairs from Brooklyn Borough President Reynoso's office brought greetings from the Borough President.

Ms. Arna Lipkind from IDDC-Connect, wished everyone a happy first day of school, and thanked all community members and stakeholders that participated in the "Shower in the City" event, as it was a wonderful event for the community. There were amazing resources and giveaways of clothing, food, etc.

Self-care is a crucial part of managing one's mental health, so all are encouraged to find the time to take a moment for mindfulness, rest, and relaxation. IDCC-Crown Heights is an info-driven organization that is here to assist and connect you to mental health services, physical health services, benefits, basic needs and support services, vocational assistance, and substance abuse treatment and support. They will help you find doctors and specialists in your area of need, accompany you to appointments, assist with medication management, and help you apply for any benefits. Ms. Lipkind announced that a new QR code is being used to spread the word about IDCC's new survey on mental health, and she stated that it would be shared with the district office.

Additionally, Ms. Lipkind announced that the recent One Crown Heights event was a great success. They are currently working on a financial literacy workshop series starting at end of October.

Desmond Atkins made comments directed to Councilmembers Osse and Hudson, stating that his Block Association has been fighting rats longer than 10 years. They are currently in the process of formulating a petition for directed legislation and changes to regulations. Mr. Atkins stated that the NYC rat problem is one that has been growing for 40 years, mostly ignored, and due to in part to direct relations to changes in legislation and regulations. Furthermore, he stated that he has lived in the city longer than 70 years and did not start really seeing rats until after the age of 50. He made a request to set up meeting with Councilmember Osse and his Chief of Staff to further discuss the rat epidemic.

Additionally, Mr. Atkins mentioned the sinkholes directly in front of the Brooklyn Children's Museum and stated that sinkholes are also a failure in infrastructure that also happen to be occurring next to Con Edison trunk lines. During the Bergen Street blackout this summer, he stated that Con Edison crews did not note a direct correlation between sinkholes, but disputed that. He concluded that the money that goes to other communities does not come to Community Board 8, and we are constantly begging and being last.

Ms. Karen Crawford from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office brought greetings from the District Attorney and stated that she can be reached at 718-250-4877 with any constituent needs.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked everyone for their comments and asked Ms. George to identify callers on the meeting. After the callers were identified, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Lazur made a motion to accept minutes with any correction. The motion was seconded by Ms.

Atkinson. Chairperson Weatherspoon stated that several minor corrections were received. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked for a roll call. After establishing that a quorum was present she 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, September 1, 2022 virtually via Webex at 6:15 p.m. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Cathy Iselin, Deborah Young, Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Ethel Tyus, Elaine Weinstein, Lisa Atkinson, Mary Shufford, Nizjoni Granville, Peter Krashes, Sarah Lazur, Gib Veconi, Mimi Mitchell, Kaja Kuehl, Irsa Weatherspoon, Pierre Albert, Amber Mazor Jennifer Jordan, Jack Robinson, Ken Marable, Michael Francoeur, Nabil Ishac, Nix Laemie, Richard Goodstein, Robert Callahan, Adam Uster and 1 caller.

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

1. 593A Vanderbilt Avenue (Docket # LPC-22-07418) application for Certificate of Appropriateness

Mr. Nabil Ishac presented on behalf of his client. The application is for a proposed retractable roof in the rear yard, with clear glass & mullions. The application also involves building a 6'-0" high brick fence in the rear yard for an outdoor seating area in the rear yard for a proposed eating & drinking establishment. The chair noted that this applicant has also been heard by the SLA Committee seeking a liquor license.

Committee members inquired about the mechanical operations of the retractable roof and noise associated with its operation. Members inquired about the extent of community notice regarding the project plans, stating that the structure would be visible from the backyard at 653 Bergen Street. During the meeting, it was noted that the applicant had not reviewed the proposed plans with neighbors, and had anecdotally discussed the plans with the liquor store operators next door. Notice of the Land Use Committee meeting was sent to some of the neighbors, but not ALL neighbors who the Committee advises applicants notify have been contacted, namely the neighbors abutting the rear yard of the space that would also be affected.

Additionally, committee members asked specific questions about the design of the structure, including the roof shape, the color and the large lot-line windows.

The committee voted 12 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions to support the application with the following modifications, and the requirement that the applicant send timely notification to all neighbors of the CB8 meeting as well as the applicant's LPC hearing date:

1. Change the color of the structure/enclosure to a more muted color;
2. Reduce the height of the structure/enclosure;
3. Remove all the lot-line windows.

Regarding the conditions set forth by the committee, Ms. Gibbs inquired whether or not they have been met as the committee's approval was contingent upon the set forth modifications.

Mr. Ishac informed the Board that his team did make changes to the height and lowered it. As for the other conditions by the committee, Mr. Ishac stated that he is checking to see if LPC would allow him to retain the plans as they currently are, or require him to alter them per the Board's recommendation. He continued to state that he believes there is no reason to change anything as the architect on record. Furthermore, speaking directly to criticism about the designs, he stated that it does not make sense to lower the peak as it is not invasive, and not like "the whole wall is up and flat and becomes an obstacle." The only high thing is the ridge of the gable and after 18 inches, it disappears. As such, he would like to keep the height. The idea about the windows is to bring more light and air into the space. The windows will be closed in winter and open in the summer to maintain a moderate temperature within. (Mr. Ishac's full explanation can be heard starting at minute 38 of the YouTube Live stream)

Hearing Mr. Ishac's refusal to amend his application per the committee's declaration, Dr. Lazur made a motion to withhold support for the application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. Mr. Witherwax asked if the motion maker would be amenable to changing the recommendation to support the committee's initial recommendation of supporting the applicant conditionally so that something positive goes to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Dr. Lazur was amenable to the idea, and Mr. Veconi requested to make the amendment to the motion.

Mr. Veconi made a motion that the Board withhold support for the project until such time as the applicant modifies the plans as recommended by the Land Use Committee and supported by the Board. Dr. Lazur and Ms. Gibbs both agreed with the modified motion and Ms. Gibbs confirmed her second.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community and/or community board members . Hearing none she called for a vote. The motion carried with a final tally of 36 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. 910 St. John's Place: Legalization of Work without LPC permit

Mr. Adam Uster, the homeowner of 910 St. John's Place presented his application to legalize a shed installed in front of property. The shed is completely self-supporting and not anchored to either the building or the non-original sidewalk. The shed is made of corrugated aluminum painted in a dark gray. The dimensions are 75" wide x 75" deep x 55" tall.

Mr. Uster noted that Landmarks Preservation Commission's regulations categorize the shed as "furniture" as it is not anchored, and consequently, installed the shed under the assumption that the shed as furniture was under the purview of LPC. Additionally, he stated that after consulting his neighbors, at least one of whom attended the Land Use meeting, they did not have issue with the shed as it currently exists in the front yard.

Explaining the need for the shed, Mr. Uster informed the committee that the shed is used to store the family's and the ground floor tenant's bicycles. He stated that the decision to utilize a shed was made to avoid an unsightly tarp and necessary wires and cables to hold it in place over the stored bicycled.

On behalf of the Crown Heights North Association, Ms. Deborah Young stated that Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) does not support the applicant's request for legalization of the shed due to the applicant's negligence to first receive the proper permits before installing the structure.

Mr. Veconi noted that it is very rare that a legalization application gets the support of the Committee. He let the applicant know that the lack of support was less about this specific application and more about setting an unfortunate precedent if this legalization was approved.

Mr. Uster said he was open to suggestions as to possible alterations to the shed that would result in the shed being approved.

The committee voted 10 in favor, 8 opposed, with 1 abstention to withhold support for the application for legalization of the shed and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Chairperson Weatherspoon asked if there were any questions or comments from the community and/or community board members.

Mr. Francoeur stated that he is not a voting member of the committee but was present for the committee's discussion. He stated further that he is not entirely sure that the applicant's actions were done out of negligence rather than just a matter of a learning process. LPC does allow staffing level approvals for furniture, such as trash enclosures, and the bike shed is similar to a trash enclosure which LPC can approve at staff level. He concluded by stating that he is not sure that the board needs to send the first-time homeowner to LPC with a black mark for a learning issue and error.

Mr. Callahan stated that fellow member Michael Francoeur did a good job summarizing his opposition to the motion and stated that he wanted to restate his own opposition to the committee's vote as it was not documented in the public hearing report. Furthermore, he stated that he does not think the board needs to be voting against the item and that this vote appears to be a misapplication of a well-intentioned process.

Mr. Witherwax asked for confirmation of the shed at just under 5 feet and not like an extra room to a house or a makeshift guesthouse. He further verified that it was entirely moveable and not fixed, and the applicant assured him that it could be entirely dismantled and removed in a few hours. He agreed with Mr. Callahan that this may be a misapplication of the Board's power, as this shed is unlikely to unleash a wave of sheds on landmark blocks.

Mr. Veconi clarified what the application is versus what it should have been. An application to "legalize" is not the same as a Certificate of No Effect, which would require working with LPC. Legalization means one has gone around LPC staff to accomplish the same goal. If we start passing and supporting legalization work, we as a Board will be doing two things: 1) we would be showing LPC that we are not really serious about having the agency publicly review work done in our historic districts; and 2) we would be encouraging other property owners to seek forgiveness rather than permission and the Boards volunteers to do the job of LPC staffers that have the expertise, funds, manpower, etc. to carefully review applications to ensure that they do not have a negative effect. The path Mr. Callahan states for this application is working with staff at LPC to achieve their desired effect.

Ms. Young stated that she believes it would set a dangerous precedent to provide approval and thus potentially cause a flood of other applicants to do work and then seek forgiveness.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she stands with the criticisms set forth by Messrs Francoeur, Callahan, and Witherwax, as the LPC guidance does not actually speak to bicycle sheds and only speak to garbage sheds. Since LPC guidance does not speak to what the applicant is seeking, any homeowner, especially a first-time homebuyer regardless of historic district or not, would review the documents and come to the logical conclusion that they do not need to contact the agency in question.

The applicant's wife made a statement about the inconvenience of removing the shed and bringing the bikes indoors but reiterated that had LPC's guidance stated anything about sheds in general rather than only focused on garbage sheds, they would have absolutely gone to the agency.

Mr. Uster, the applicant, stated that they are currently working with LPC and speaking with preservationists. The issue is that since the verbiage of the agency's own guidelines do not specifically mention enclosures of other types rather than garbage sheds, it cannot be approved at staff level. A large gray area has been created by the limitations of the guidance, which is why LPC sent him to the Community Board for rectification. It is similar height and color of standard garbage sheds to avoid intrusion in the historic district. They are not opposed to working with the Board and the agency on bringing it into compliance, but the gray area eliminates compliance requirements.

Several other questions, comments, and statements were made on the application prior to Mr. Veconi making a motion that the Board withhold support for legalization of the shed but encourage the applicant to apply for the necessary permit working with LPC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muhammad. Mr. Uster asked the Board to provide LPC some guidelines on the shed as LPC currently does not have any, which is why he is present at the meeting and following the procedure set forth to him by LPC.

Mr. Callahan asked Mr. Veconi as motion maker, to amend the motion so that it can be stated in our recommendation to LPC that we have no objection to the certificate of no effect, thereby releasing Mr. Uster from having to come back before the Board to represent the same application. Mr. Veconi did not accept the amendment.

Ms. Brown-Henry stated that LPC guidelines for a Certificate of Appropriateness is only for changes to the structure and the property, and this removable shed does not fit that criteria. She asked if the Board could just approve the application with support for a certificate of no effect. Ms. Mitchell supported and seconded that question.

Mr. Veconi re-stated his original motion to withhold support for the application and encourage the applicant working with LPC to obtain the proper certificate needed. He clarified that he only has the applicant's words that a certificate of no effect is necessary versus a certificate of appropriateness and would prefer to leave it to LPC to determine what is needed. Ms. Muhammad reaffirmed her support and second for the motion. Chairperson Weatherspoon called for a vote. The full Board voted 25 in favor, 9 opposed, with 1 abstention to Mr. Veconi's motion.

Ms. Wedderburn also informed that Board that the committee discussed a third LPC application for 1450 Pacific Street and stated that the applicant has asked for a postponement of the vote to present redesigned plans taking into consideration the committee's and CHNA's suggestions.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that this concludes the Public Hearing on committee action items. She then stated that the board is currently working on Capital and Expense Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2024. We are also seeking submissions for budget items and the Statement of District Needs. A survey was sent out to the community, but additional feedback is necessary.

If you submit requests outside of the form, they must have an accompanying explanation of 100 words or less. Supporting documentation in word or PDF format can be submitted as well.

This budget process is not for complaints, but instead to help the agencies determine what services are funded and any additional services need to be created. The District Needs Statement is a compilation of needs and services that have been identified as needs or necessary for the community and its residents. Additionally, nonprofit organizations and philanthropists use the Needs Statements to identify what services they will provide or fund, and where.

A few examples of budget requests that have been approved for funding in recent years:

- 6 times a week litter basket collection for all commercial corridors
- Extending library service hours to include more evening and weekend hours for working individuals.

A few examples of Needs Statement requests that have actually been funded and provided based on their appearance in multiple Boards' statements:

- Create additional spaces for reading rooms for varying ages outside of libraries
- Expand universal pre-k options to reduce daycare burdens on economically challenged parents

Chairperson Weatherspoon acknowledged two more officials on the call and asked each to give an update to the Board.

Tony Herbert – Office of the Mayor, Community Assistance Unit

Mr. Tony Herbert from the Community Affairs Unit at the Mayor's Office brought greetings from the Mayor and announced that he is available for the community for any issues they may have. He also informed the Board that the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit in partnership with Brooklyn Community Boards 2, 3, 6, and 8, and various City agencies as well as tenants of Atlantic Terminal, will host a Resource Fair on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Plaza of Atlantic Terminal Mall located between Flatbush Avenue and Fort Green Place. A flyer will be available soon, for more information, contact him at 646-584-6867.

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman – 56th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Zinerman stated that she hoped everyone had a pleasant summer and announced that a number of upcoming events this month. On September 13th in Albany, Office of People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD) will host a public hearing on the Governor's 5.07 Action Plan. The plan focuses on three main areas: 1. Support people in the most person-centered ways; 2. Strengthen the workforce and OPWDD; and 3. Improve the service system across the state. Individuals with developmental disabilities are encouraged to attend and discuss their experiences and their needs,

as well as provide feedback on the plan as presented. Full details of the plan can be found here: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/05/507-pl-english.pdf>.

The Assemblywoman stated that New York State hires a number of individuals with developmental disabilities each year but are trying to incentivize community-based organizations and private companies to hire as well. Since she sits on the State's Labor Committee, she and her colleagues on the committee are looking at ways to identify and strengthen career paths to help those with disabilities, as well as careers that they can enter.

This coming Sunday, September 11th, her office will be commemorating the 9-11 tragedy, honoring black firefighters that lost their lives during 9-11. She is asking block associations to do their own commemorations that day to not only honor those lost during 9-11, but also to celebrate grandparents day. Staff is putting together packets containing materials for the commemoration celebration, and also a kids ceremony to honor our youth.

On Tuesday the 14th, her office will continue their housing forum series, and will be hosting a second one on homeownership at Restoration Plaza. Presenters will be present to discuss funding options available for first time homebuyers, down payment assistance programs offered by government entities as well as non-profits, benefits of homeownership versus renting, maintenance, and much more.

Finally, Brooklyn's first handball tournament will be hosted in St. John's Park on the 17th. In fact, her office will be hosting a number of sports events to let young adults know that sports is a great career pathway and not just as a player, but as a coach, business owner, and several other facets. Additionally, collectively, the community should view sports as more than just about recreation and athleticism, but also skills building, collaboration, education, and community.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanked Mr. Herbert and Assemblywoman Zinerman for the updates and information and asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development – Brian Saunders, Chair

Mr. Saunders wished everyone happy end of summer and hoped that it was safe for everyone. He reported that the Economic Development Committee will not meet for the month of September and invited everyone to join the next meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 via WebEx at 6:15 p.m. He mentioned that the committee will be partnering with the Rabbi Cohen and the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council on ways to assist new and existing small businesses in Crown Heights. This program should start on September 28th, for further information, please contact the district office.

Education & Youth – Nora Daniel, Chair

Ms. Daniel reported that the Education and Youth Committee did not meet for the month of September. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022. All are welcomed to attend.

Environment, Sanitation and Transportation – Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax stated that Mr. Atkins was asking some very good questions to our elected officials earlier in the meeting. He talked about some of the problems rats, sinkholes, leaky water infrastructure. I wanted to add a few items to that list such as dirty streets, intermittent or nonexistent sanitation

recycling pick up, the lack of the brown bins, the food waste pickup, lack of adherence to alternate side parking regulations, traffic plug streets, high rates of asthma, etc. What do all these problems have in common 2 things. 1) they can be traced back to the historic disinvestment in the physical infrastructure of the city that Mr. Atkin's referenced and 2) they are solvable by inventive policy solutions and a little bit of political bravery and a little bit of political leadership. So, to our elected officials who were here, 2 hours ago, and I hope are still listening, if you want to build a liveable, clean and healthy environment, that is sustainable you can start by taking a close look at and dismantling some of the existing interests that keep our streets dirty and clogged with cars. That keep the antiquated sanitation rituals in place and put parking before persons and that keep the rats happy and well fed and dancing in our streets unafraid if you are interested in discussing these issues and many, many more.

What we, as community members can do to address them and bring them to the attention of those in power to affect these changes. Please join the committee we meet next on September the 27th at 615 on Webex. Hope to see everyone.

Health and Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

Ms. Gibbs reported that the Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting next Thursday, September 15th on Webex you can check the board's website for the link information. She mentioned that she will partner with the Senior Committee next month and provide information regarding breast cancer awareness. On September 28, 2022 at PS 41, there will be a mobile bus performing breast cancer screenings from 9 a.m to 4:30 p.m for anyone over 40. There are no Co pays and no deductibles.

Next week the committee will be planning the meeting agenda for the entire year. All are welcomed to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Nizjoni Granville, Acting Chair

Ms. Granville stated that the Housing Advocacy Committee did not meet during the summer. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 via Webex at 6:15 p.m. She invited everyone to join them, whether you are an owner or a tenant.

She also stated that she is happy that a couple of elected officials are still on the meeting because the committee will be inviting someone from your staff to come out to join the housing meetings to be abreast on the issues that may come up in the meetings.

Parks – Glinda Andrews, Chair

Ms. Andrews stated that she hoped everyone had a wonderful summer. She mentioned that the Lincoln Terrace Tennis Association, junior group participated in the Arthur Ash kids day program tournament that was on August 27th. The New York Times featured a story about their wonderful program, and what they have accomplished in this community. We'd like to give kudos to Mr. Charles and his staff for the great work they have done. This tennis association is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who work really hard help the young children learn to play tennis and to succeed. The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on the second Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 615 via WebEx instead of the 1st Tuesday due to the holiday. We invite you to join us to help decide on a capital projects requests, events for the year and advocate for the parks in the district.

Public Safety – Mark Thurton, Chair

Mr. Thurton congratulated Glinda and the Parks Committee and praise the work of the Lincoln Terrance Tennis Association. He reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meet during the summer. However, they did collaborate with the 77th Precinct and the Precinct Council on National Night Out Against Crime during the summer. He stated that the was extremely successful and wanted to publicly thank Brian Saunders for leading that. He did a fantastic job.

For this semester of meetings, the Public Safety Committee is going to have a busy schedule because public safety in our community is always a concern. He invited everyone to come join the Public Safety Committee meetings to express their ideas and concerns and help figure out how we can improve our neighborhoods. The committee meets on the 4th Monday of each month via WebEx.

Seniors- Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

Ms. Muhammad reported that the Seniors Committee did not meet during the month of September. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 pm. at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place.

October is breast cancer awareness month, the committee is planning to do something around breast cancer prevention to make them aware of the importance of them having their mammograms. The committee is also inviting the new board members to join the senior committee.

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

Ms. Weatherspoon reported that the committee did not have a September meeting on its regular date due to the Labor Day holiday. The committee will be meeting next week instead. However, the committee did meet during the summer to review applications. She stated that there are two committees (SLAC and Land Use) that have been granted executive authority to act on behalf of the board when the board is on hiatus during the summer. She stated that the committee is working to streamline the renewal review process to make it easier for applicants. The committee will consider 3 key areas: 1) No Method of Operation Changes, 2) No complaints from local precincts (311 or 911), 3) No community objections.

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 via WebEx. The committee will bring forth the July applications to be ratified by the board in October. All are welcomed to attend the September 12th meeting.

Veterans – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

Ms. Granville reported that the Veteran's Committee will be joining Community Board's 3 and 16 for their annual Veterans Appreciation Parade, which will take place on the 1st Saturday in November. She encouraged everyone to come out and support the parade and make it a feel good day for our veterans. In addition to a parade there will also be a resource fair and the end of the parade. More information will be given at a later date.

Chairperson Weatherspoon thanks everyone for their reports and opened the floor to public comments.

Celene Rosado Acting Chair of the Nostrand Avenue Merchants Association reported that the Destination Nostrand event took place on August 20th between Atlantic Avenue and Prospect Place. She thanked the board, the community partners, the funding partners, our neighbors, our residents, our elected officials, and the 77 precinct and everybody who helped get us to where we are. She also mentioned that they have secured funding to stall holiday lights along the Nostrand Avenue corridor from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway. If anyone is interested in partnering, funding, volunteering on any of our upcoming initiatives, please email her at celene.rosado@gmail.com.

Mr. Atkins thanked Glinda for lifting up the article in the times about Lincoln Terrace Park, and stated that it was very wonderful coverage. It had a wonderful picture of Marva Brown and her family, but I would like to say that that article. It was very glowing in some aspects, however, it painted a very bad picture about the park in our community. The author cited prostitution, crime, muggings and killings at least 3 times in the article.

Gib Veconi, chair the Prospect Heights neighborhood Development Council, which sponsors the weekend open street program on Vanderbilt Avenue. He stated that if you haven't had a chance to visit the open street on Vanderbilt Avenue, you have 2 great weekends coming up. He invited everyone to come and join them this Saturday at 5 pm. for the family circus. It's a lot of fun for kids and adults last year they did a very nice show. And this year my understanding is the show will be even bigger. Also, come out for outdoor Salsa on Saturday, September 17th on Vanderbilt Avenue and Pacific streets. Come out and learn the basics with a free class sponsored by Salsa Salsa Dance Studio from 4-8 p.m.

Adina, owner of a new restaurant in the district called Cornbread located on Eastern Parkway and Bedford Avenue inquired about how to get more engaged with the community and how she can be more of a community partners. She is looking for a partner to feed the homeless for Thanksgiving. Chairperson Weatherspoon wished her good luck with her business and thanked her for the offer because there is a real need in this community.

Sarah Lazar invited everyone to the Crown Heights Tenants Union annual picnic on Saturday, September 17th at 1p.m. at Lincoln Terrace Park.

Alex Creem first wanted to start off stating that he is not a resident and has been hanging in the background enjoying the engagement from everyone tonight. He's a neighboring resident in district 2. He explained what brought him to a district 8 meeting. Originally it was his girlfriend who lives in district 8 and so he has spent a lot of time in the community. He is also a local architect and urban designer. He thinks the point that Mr. Witherwax brought up earlier about the disinvestment of the physical infrastructure is an important one. He would like to know how he could introduce a research proposal to one of our committee's for (1) a North-South mobility corridor for pedestrians and cyclists with an urban gondola system along the easements created by the Franklin Ave Shuttle corridor and (2) the conversion of all vacant, city-owned lots along this corridor into vibrant, community infrastructure, including the adaptive reuse of existing MTA stations into community facilities. Chairperson Weatherspoon advised him to send the information to the district office and Ms. George will get back to him with the process to move forward.

Nizjoni Granville reminded everyone that if you work for the city of New York, you get 4 hours for your breast cancer screening, and that's not confined to women to men can also get breast cancer and need to be screened. She also congratulated Crown Heights North Association on the 20th Anniversary

soiree which was held last month. She expressed how much she enjoyed the event at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Kwasi Mensah mentioned that September is Emergency Preparedness month. He encouraged everyone to join the NYC Community Emergency Response Teams. For more information visit <https://airtable.com/shru2htYHAUwkbK3W>.

He also inquired to Senator Brisport about the use of public service announcements that can be used to alert New Yorkers about fire and other emergencies. Senator Brisport stated that he heard the Mayor was working on something to this effect. He will circle back with the mayor's office and get back to us.

Ms. Weatherspoon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Guests Present

Adena-Foya Foods
Adrienne Roberson
Alexander Cream
Celeste Stern
Arna Lipkind
AS 12018
Candy London
Conor Hassett
Edward Delman
Erogers Hykes
Hellen King-Denman
Jack Robinson
Nix Laemmie
Jennifer Jordan
Julia Teti
Jonathan Marable
Kim Robinson
LaCheryl James
Mary Shufford
Nabil Ishac
Neil Narayon
Raphael Famatigan
Roger Myers
Sheana A
Amanda St. Louis
Tayler Bulmer
Tiara Mclaugh
Frederique Uster-Hug
Adam Uster
Richard Wu
Bobby Zipp
3479****83

3479****41
6464****85
7184****00
7188****71
9175****45
9176****62
9178****05
9292****43