

**Community Board No. 8
Calvary Community Church
1575 St. John's Place
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

January 12, 2012

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Samantha Bernadine
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Helen Coley
Renaye Cuyler
James Ellis
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Curtis Harris
Doris Heriveaux
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Atim Oton
Angelina Pinto
Mary Reed
Marlene Saunders
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent

Viola Bing
Diana Foster
Priscilla Maddox
Dr. Fred Monderson
Alton Pierce
Robert Puca
Cy Richardson
Patricia Scantlebury
William Suggs
Gregory Todd
Sharon Wedderburn

Elected Officials Present

Honorable Walter Mosley, 57th Assembly Dist. Leader

Elected Official's Representatives

Jervonne Singletary, Assemblyman Camara's Office
Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries's Office
Jesse Hamilton, Senator Adams's Office
Arna Lipkind, Councilmember Mealy's Office
Renea Murphy, Councilmember Vann's Office
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke's Office

Liaisons Present

Sam Pierre, Office of the Mayor
Gwen Sumpter, Brooklyn Children's Museum
Lieutenant Agate, 77th Precinct
Saadia Adossa, District Attorney Hynes's Office

CB Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate
Valerie Hodges-Mitchell, Comm. Service Aide

Ms. Granville called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year and wished everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012. She also announced that Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, First Vice Chair, would be chairing the meeting.

Ms. Langhorne asked for a formal welcome from Calvary Community Church.

A representative from the church welcomed everyone to Calvary and stated that the community is always welcomed at the church.

CORRESPONDENCE –Information pertinent to the District was distributed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were adopted with any necessary corrections.

Ms. Langhorne asked for a report from the following committees:

AGING/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – Ms. Marlene Saunders, Chair; Dr. Flize Bryan, Vice Chair

The Aging/Health & Human Services Committee did not meet in January. Ms. Saunders reminded everyone of how important their health is and advised them to put their health first in 2012.

The next meeting will be held Monday, February 6, 2012, 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation which is located at 727 Classon Avenue (corner of Park Place). All are encouraged to attend.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Priscilla Maddox, Chair; Ms. Atim Oton, Vice Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR). In addition to the Chair Priscilla Maddox, present were: Gail Branch-Muhammad, Iris Chan, Emileo Christopher, Max C., Renaye Cuyler, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Lanaya Irvin, David Johnson, Kempton Mooney, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Rebecca Ramirez, Delissa Reynolds, Roy Schneider, Gib Veconi, and Deborah Young,

The committee discussed the following new liquor license application:

1. The proprietor of Bollywood Bar located at 676 Franklin Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place) made a favorable presentation for his establishment that is seeking a beer and wine license. Bollywood Bar will have 10 seats at a separate bar space and 35 seats at tables. It will operate from 4 PM to 2 AM daily. There will be 4 employees including security, and cameras will be strategically placed throughout the establishment. There will be occasional live Indian musical performances with amplified sound, but generally, there will be light background music playing. The live music will depend on availability. The proprietor of Bollywood also owns and operates Bombay Masala at 678 Franklin Avenue.

There is a church directly across the street from Bollywood, but because the proprietor is seeking only a beer and wine license, the 200 foot rule is not an issue. Because of the

possibility of live music, the committee suggested that the owner look into obtaining a cabaret license to protect his business interest. There were no police objections to the application and the full Board voted to support the application with 25 members in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The committee also discussed the following renewal applications:

1. Bar Sepia, 234 Underhill Avenue (Lincoln Place and Eastern Parkway)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 30 in favor, 2 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. Basil Pizza and Wine Bar, 268 Kingston Avenue (corner of Lincoln)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 28 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

3. Restaurant Gen, 659 Washington Avenue (corner St. Marks)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

4. Amorina—Cucina Rustica, 624 Vanderbilt Avenue (Prospect and Park)

5. Aliseo—Cucina Picena, 665 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean and Bergen)

The full Board voted to support the two applications by the same owner with a final tally of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

6. The Spot, 417 Prospect Place (corner of Grand)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

7. Brooklyn Exposure, 1401 Bedford Avenue (St. Marks and Prospect)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 31 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

8. Q's Tavern, 761 Nostrand Avenue (St. John's and Lincoln)

The full Board voted to support the application with a final tally of 31 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 6:30 PM at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

EDUCATION – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chairperson; Kwasi Mensah, Vice Chair

The Education Committee met on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In attendance were: Kwasi Mensah, Melina Bernadine, Samantha Bernadine and Ari Feldman.

Mr. Mensah attended a SMART Scholars information event for middle school parents and parent coordinators hosted by Senator Montgomery earlier in the day at YMCA. The Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation Scholarship for Service Program is an opportunity for students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines to receive a full scholarship and be gainfully employed upon degree completion. For more information, visit: <http://smart.asee.org>

He also stated that the Committee is working on drafting a letter to the Mayor requesting an independent investigation of NYC Public School Funding, Budget, Supplies, Programs, Resources, etc. More information will be given at a later date.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are welcomed to attend.

ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION – Ms. Ede Fox, Chair; Ms. Helen Coley, Vice Chair

The Environment/Sanitation committee met Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 7:00PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chair Ede Fox, present were Glinda Andrews and Helen Coley.

At the next Environment/Sanitation Committee meeting, there will be a presentation from Greg Todd who is a fellow Board Member. He will be discussing ways to encourage restaurants to compost their food waste and encouraging the use of bicycles to carry waste to compost sites. This process does not require the use of gas and will create jobs. Ms. Fox indicated that this can be something good for the district.

Mr. Atkins stated that he lives in Crown Heights and he composts his waste. He asked if there is any outreach from the Environment/Sanitation Committee or other City Officials on illegal dumping.

Ms. Fox stated that they have taken many steps and will continue to take steps in trying to decrease illegal dumping.

She invited everyone to the next meeting which will be held January 17, 2012, 7:00pm at CNR which is located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition, the presentation for bicycle carting and composting will take place February 21, 2012.

FIRE/SAFETY – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chairperson

The Fire/Safety committee met on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 and January 11, 2012 at 6:30pm at CNR. Mr. Witherwax stated that both meetings were well attended. In addition to the Chair Robert Witherwax, present were: Desmond Atkins, Julia Boyd, Curtis Harris, Angelina Pinto and Douglas Williams.

There have been many fires over the holidays. One major fire in particular was on Prospect Place between Kingston and Albany where a Fire Fighter was seriously injured and hospitalized.

Mr Witherwax stressed the importance of fire safety. A Lieutenant from the Fire Safety Education Unit attended the meeting last night and gave a thorough presentation on fire safety and prevention. He discussed different types of smoke detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors and their life expectancy. Smoke detectors are not expensive to purchase.

He also mentioned how important it is to plan an escape route and practice fire drills with your family.

Mr. Witherwax explained the importance of community involvement in fire safety and encouraged everyone to attend the Fire/Safety committee meetings.

The next Fire/Safety committee meeting will be Wednesday February 8, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30PM.

HOUSING/ULURP – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair; Ethel Tyus, Vice Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met Thursday, January 5, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM but had no action items. In addition to Chair, Nizjoni Granville present were: Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Curtis Harris, Angelina Pinto, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus and Sharon Wedderburn.

Ms. Lish Whitson and Ms. Sanmati Naik from the Department of City Planning (DCP) made a presentation explaining the proposed DCP Green Zone and (E) Designations Citywide Text Amendments. The proposal includes zoning map amendments which jointly with the Text Amendments are designed to remove impediments to the construction and retrofitting of energy efficient buildings:

Green Zone Text Amendments are aimed at improving building performance by:

- allowing thicker/well-insulated exterior building walls (up to eight inches for existing buildings and beyond eight inches for new construction) to reduce heating and cooling demands where this additional thickness would be exempted from *floor area*, encouraging high-performance buildings without changing the amount of usable space in the building;
- allowing sun control devices and awnings to project 2'-6" over required open areas while covering no more than 30 percent of the façade from which they project, as viewed in elevation;
- allow solar panels on flat roofs anywhere below the parapet, regardless of building height, except that portions of taller solar installations that are higher than 4 feet would be subject to limits on roof coverage and height;
- allowing low-lying features such as green roofs, recreational decks, other stormwater detention systems and skylights anywhere below the parapet, regardless of building height; and
- with certification by the Chair of the Commission, allow a **greenhouse** to be exempt from floor area and height limits, provided that it is located on top of a building that does not contain residences or sleeping accommodations.

Ms. Naik briefly covered the (E) Designation proposal that had been discussed at the December 1, 2011 meeting. The proposed changes will: (1) create a single, transparent process to assign

hazardous materials (E) designations to both non-applicant owned and applicant-owned properties; (2) enable the application of € designations in combination with all other ZR actions; (3) modify ZR §11-15 to require compliance with air quality, noise and other environmental restrictions as prerequisites to obtaining building permits; (4) allow OER to apply equally protective post-approval modifications to (E) designations; (5) provide for ongoing monitoring to improve enforcement; and (6) remove duplicative and outdated text in ZR § 11-15.

Mr. Whitson explained that in order for community residents to know what manufacturing activities involving hazardous materials are being conducted in a building, they would have to consult the State Registry of Hazardous Materials. (Subsequent research shows that the State Registry only lists inactive sites.) Further, Mr. Whitson advised that permit applications for buildings with (E) designations will require full remediation of all hazardous materials, air quality improvements, and noise attenuation.

The public comment period for the (E) Designation proposal ended December 27, 2011. The Green Zone proposal was referred out for public comments on December 12, 2011 and is due 60 days from that date which is February 9, 2012.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 722 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Glinda Andrews; Chair, Kim Albert, Vice Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Desmond Atkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Diana Foster, Williard Hawkins, Linda Lawton, Martin Maher, Alex Mezzatesta, Kevin Quinn, Adrian Straker, Greg Todd, James Turner, Eileen Weingarten, and Vilma Zuniga.

The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation made a presentation about the Dean Street Playground Plaza renovation project. This project is a result of funds remaining from a private contribution that upgraded the Dean Street Playground field a few years ago.

The project will include, but is not limited to upgrading the pavement area, adding 8 feet and 6 feet benches by the basketball courts, picnic tables and non standard tables (some of the tables will have three chairs to allow handicap access), and adding more greenery, plants and shrubs.

The affected area will be closed until the project is completed. The project is slated to begin in the fall of this year. The project is expected to be completed within 9 months of the start date.

Full Board voted to support the plans with a final tally of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The Parks Committee will be hosting its second annual Community Awareness Day which will take place Saturday, June 9, 2012. Individuals or groups who wish to participate should contact the District Office.

The next Parks Committee meeting will be February 7, 2012 at 6:00 at St. John's Recreation Center, 1251 Prospect Place-1st Floor Library.

Police – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Police Committee met on Monday, December 19, 2011 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue Brooklyn, NY but had no action items. In addition to the Chair Shalawn Langhorne were: Kim Albert, Wayne Baily, Dorothy Jean Bembry-Guet, Judith Campbell, Lorraine Clarke, Curtis Harris, Willard Hawkins, Xeerxeema Jordan and David Seigal.

Ms. Langhorne announced that the Brooklyn Clergy NYPD Task Force of the 77th Precinct will be hosting their precinct's tour Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 11:00am. This is an initiative from Commissioner Kelly working with the Clergy, Police Departments and community residents. These are phenomenal tours that allow residents to interface with different departments at the 77th Precinct as well as meeting different officers. This tour will present a different view from visiting the Precinct for a report or a meeting.

The District Attorney Charles Hynes is having his bi-monthly meeting on January 31, 2012 at 3:00 PM. He will be meeting with Officers from the 77th Precinct. If there are any concerns that are not being resolved through the precinct, feel free to bring it to the D.A.'s attention.

The next Police/Public Safety Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 6PM, 77th Precinct, 127 Utica Avenue.

TRANSPORTATION – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 7PM at Haitian American Day Care Center located at 1491 Bedford Avenue Brooklyn, NY but had no action items. In addition to the Chair Dr. Monderson, present were: Louise Cando, David Christini, Holly Fuchs, Linda Harris, Doris Heriveaux, Xeerxeems Jordan, Connie Lesold, Chris McNally, Anthony Mohen, Brian Thompson, Gib Viconi, Jacqueline Wells, and Robert Witherwax.

Ms. Kate Fellin-Yeh and Ms. Ronda Messer from the Department of Transportation gave a presentation on the Bike Share program. The plan is to put 10,000 rental bikes on the streets for short rides, where the rider (who must be 16 or older) can pick up and drop off the bikes at various convenient sites. These sites are in the process of being identified, and input is encouraged from the community boards and community residents. The service is seen as an extension of the subway system. The bikes are very sturdy with 3 speeds and are 'user friendly'. They are easy to use and give online information in various languages via a screen on the handlebars (e.g., follow one-way traffic rules, stay off sidewalks, etc.) They can be rented for the year or for a 12-hour period. Plans are in the works to allow renters to pay without a standard credit card. Each community board will have a walk-through and all are encouraged to go online to make suggestions at www.nycitybikeshare.com. At least one community board picked a task force to add/delete from the data base.

The Transportation Committee will not meet for the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January, 24, 2012, 7:00PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

Youth and Family Services – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chairperson

The Youth and Family Services committee met on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair, Akosua Albritton, present were: Curtis Harris, Angeli Rasbury, William Suggs, Audrey-Taitt-Hall, and Genel Williams.

Ms. Julia Taylor, a resident of this community who is obtaining her graduate degree, gave a presentation on Safe in this Space which is a ten week program consisting of community residents coming together expressing their safety, security and community in Crown Heights. It starts tonight, January 12, 2012 at 7:30 every Thursday for ten weeks. The location is 671 Prospect corner of Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

January 30, 2012 is Youth Lobby Day in Albany. Youth Serving Organizations are arranging buses for the youth to ride to Albany to advocate for a variety of programs. These advocates will lobby for the \$25,000,000 that is designated for the Department of Youth and Community Development which include various programs such as Summer Youth Employment Programs.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Langhorne thanked the committee chairs for their reports and asked Ms. Lipkind if she had anything to share from Councilwoman Mealy's office.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's Office – Ms. Arna Lipkind

Ms. Lipkind announced that January 31, 2012 is the last day to do appeals for parking tickets in NYC. Also, there is a new Staples store opening, which will provide job opportunities for the community. For more information, contact Councilwoman Mealy's office at 718-953-3097.

Ms. Langhorne thanked Ms. Lipkind and asked Mr. Hamilton if he had anything to share.

Senator Eric Adams' Office – Mr. Jesse Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton mentioned the successful skateboard event in Brower Park held over the summer. He also announced that the Senator's office is relocating to 1669 Bedford Avenue at the corner of Montgomery Street at the end of the month.

Each month Senator Adams honors a person from the community for their work. The person of the month this time is Mr. Phil Hawkins, President of Friends of Brower Park and President of the Block at Prospect Place Block Association for his work in Brower Park.

Petitioning has begun for the Presidential Primary to get President Barack Obama on the ballot and to get delegates to vote for Obama on the ballot. You may see people with the petitions in various locations. It is a legal procedure that must be undertaken. If anyone is interested in

working the polls on primary and election day, please contact Mr. Hamilton at jessehamilton3@gmail.com.

Mr. Staton asked how redistricting was coming along. He stated that he had heard that there were three different plans, and wanted to know which one was leading. He was informed that the lines should pretty much stay the same except for Brooklyn Heights/Carroll Gardens area. Mr. Hamilton stressed the necessity of voting because if you don't vote, you run the risk of losing voting districts.

Ms. Langhorne thanked Mr. Hamilton and asked Mr. Jackson if he had anything to share.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's Office – Mr. Charles Jackson, Deputy District Director

Mr. Jackson announced that he has been with the Congresswoman's office for about 5 weeks now. Ms. Tyus suggested that the Congresswoman's office provide funding for a trial of video cameras at private homes in high dumping areas to identify perpetrators. She was informed that there is no money for the trial she is requesting. The Congresswoman is constrained in action in many ways but he stated her office would get in touch with the right person to try to make it happen.

Ms. Lesold stated that most hospitals receive federal funding. She asked if Congresswoman Clarke's office has been involved with discussions on Brooklyn hospital closures. Mr. Jackson stated that the office was looking into it.

Ms. Langhorne thanked the elected official representatives for their reports and opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Delissa Reynolds announced that her bar, Bar Sepia, located at 234 Underhill Avenue, is hosting a can food drive for the Bedford Avenue Food Bank and Black Vets for Social Justice.

Ms. Samantha Bernardine announced that PS 22 is up in the air about whether or not it will close. PS 316 is doing a campaign to get parents to register their kids during open registration. The Bedford Avenue armory in Community Board 9 has been sold back to the city from the state. Officials are looking to put a recreation center there and seeks community input.

Ms. Amy Clarke, Editor of the Prospect Heights Patch, stated that she is looking for bloggers for the Patch. If you live in CB 8, you qualify. If there is an activity that you enjoy, an eatery, anything, you can post on the blog. If you are interested, contact her at amy.clark@patch.com.

Mr. James Ellis announced that the City Council has issued a survey to restaurant/bar owners regarding health inspections. They want input from restaurant/bar owners on how to make the system better. Visit www.council.nyc.gov for a link to the website.

Ms. Betty Davis urged everyone to get involved with Black New Yorkers for Educational Excellence (BNYEE). The organization is dedicated to educating & mobilizing to transform the NYC public education system. For more information, visit <http://www.bnyee.com>; also visit GEM: Grassroots Education Movement.

Ms. Shalawn Langhorne announced the gun buyback program on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 10 AM to 4 PM at Bedford Central Presbyterian Church. Operable hand guns yields a \$200 bank card. Operable rifles and shot guns yields a \$20 bank card. No questions asked.

Ms. Emi Wang of the Citizens Committee for New York City announced “Love Your Block Grant Awards”. Love Your Block Grants range from \$500-\$1000 and help with block transformations and beautifications. Support from certain city agencies is given as part of the grant. To download an application, please visit www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love_your_block.html. To learn more about the grant, contact Saleen Shah at 212.822.9566 or via email at sshah@citizensnyc.org.

Ms. Danae Edwards announced that Empowerment Charter School located at 188 Rochester Avenue is accepting applications for its upcoming kindergarten lottery. She distributed applications to interested parties.

Ms. Langhorne thanked everyone for their announcements and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Guests

Amy Clark
Kesha Harmon
Duke Saunders
Anthonine Pierre
Quintero Adonicam
Laurel Doukeng
Ruben Soto
Roy Simmonds
Ralph Poynter
Betty Davis
Brian Polen
David Henry
Ahmed Karim
Emily N
Hisami Holland
Beverly B
Carolyn McKinney

Robin Saunders
Rebecca Ramirez
Delissa Reynolds
C. Hunter
Kim Robinson
June Richards
Anthony Taylor
Lula Staton
Constance Lesold
Mark Girffith
Elvia Schardsmidt
Mark Thurton
Willard Hawkins
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Shard Ramharrack
Josemae Boyce
John Harris

Audrey Andrews
Betty Hunter
Ashley Dickens
Zander Lyvers
Maxx Colsen
Eulalia S
Clara Perez
Shante Jones
Phu Duong
Josh Goodman
Adam Walsh
John Harris
Alphonso Kitt
Betty Hunter
Randy Richards
Shirley Mondesir
Emi Wang