

**Community Board No. 8
Haitian American Day Care Center
1491 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11216**

February 9, 2012

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Leeann Banks
Samantha Bernadine
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Renaye Cuyler
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Ede Fox
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Curtis Harris
Doris Heriveaux
Xeexema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Kwasi Mansah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Angelina Pinto
Cy Richardson
Marlene Saunders
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
William Suggs
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Launa Thomas-Bullock
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Yves Vilus
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent

Princess Benn-James
Viola Bing
Julia Boyd
Helen Coley
Priscilla Maddox
Robert Matthews
Alton Pierce
Robert Puca
Mary Reed
Patricia Scantlebury
Sharon Wedderburn

Elected Officials Present

Walter Mosley, 57th Assembly District Leader

Elected Official's Representatives

Dottie Lebron, Councilman Vann's Office
Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery's Office
Lee Church, Assemblyman Jeffries's Office
Aja Worthy-Davis, Councilwoman James's Office
Dynishal Gross, Councilwoman Mealy's Office

Liaisons Present

C Ronald Taylor, NYC Dept. of Parks & Rec
Rebecca Ramirez, Heart of Brooklyn
Gwen Sumpter, Brooklyn Children's Museum

CB Staff Present

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

Ms. Granville called the Public Hearing on the FY2013 preliminary Budget to order at 7:20 PM. The budget items and agency responses were read by Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Ms. Atim Oton, Mr. Robert Witherwax, and Ms. Ethel Tyus.

Ms. Granville opened the floor to questions or comments regarding the Budget Responses.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that pertaining to the resurfacing capital requests, Kingston Avenue south of Eastern Parkway was completed in 6 months time. Several of the streets requested for resurfacing have been included in the budget for many years now. He asked who was advocating for streets to be repaved in the District, as Kingston Avenue north of Eastern Parkway is in dire need of repair. Currently, tax payers in District 8 are not getting their fair share. To have streets in disrepair presents a safety hazard for motorists, bikers, and pedestrians.

He was informed by Ms. George that we cannot speak on Kingston Avenue south of Eastern Parkway because there is no way of knowing how long CB 9 had the request in their budget. As far as advocates, the community board is the advocate for resurfacing projects. It takes time for streets to be resurfaced, and sometimes, it can take many years for the request to be funded.

Mr. Hawkins stated that CB 8 is a great community advocate. He provided an anecdote about the sewer problem that existed on his block a number a years of ago that the community board was instrumental in resolving. Granted, it took time, but it got resolved. He cautioned Mr. Atkins to exhibit patience with the resurfacing requests.

Mr. Hamilton stated that CB 8 assisted his block association with a sinkhole on New York Avenue. Community Board 8 did a great job getting the block repaved and he commended the Board for being pro-active. He informed Mr. Atkins that it is a process that can take years and does not happen overnight.

Ms. Lesold stated that she is pleased to see day care centers and after school centers included in the budget. She also announced that the budget hearings on the fire department were held earlier in the day and that other hearings are coming up including the Committee on Governmental Operations hearing on Community Boards on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 1:15 PM in the 14th Floor Committee Room, 250 Broadway, New York, NY regarding the NYC City Council Fiscal Year 2013 Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY 2012 Preliminary Management Report, and Agency Oversight Hearings.

Ms. Bernardine inquired about Capital Requests No. 8 and 9 regarding the Brower Park Library and necessary renovations to the building and asked if there has been an explanation as to why the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) does not support the two requests. She was informed that there has not been any explanation, and Mr. Witherwax surmised that the BPL in all likelihood does not want to put money in a rental building.

A community resident inquired about the capital requests for security cameras in the district and asked if there is a time frame for installation. Ms. Tyus stated that while there is no time frame for the installation of cameras along Kingston and Nostrand Avenues, her block association had wanted to apply for that type of funding and was informed that it was a privacy issue and concern. The cameras are not likely to be acquired via government or public funding.

Ms. George stated that the NYPD does install cameras at problem locations. We need to lobby elected officials for funding. City Council representatives have to provide funds for the cameras and together along with the Commanding Officer of the precinct, determine the locations of the cameras once the funds are received.

Regarding community policing, Mr. Atkins asked if there was an update available or follow-up done to obtain resources. Mr. Hamilton explained to him that if you do not get involved, nothing will happen. He recounted the situation with Benny Lyde, the young man gunned down on his block a number of years ago. Ms. Langorne informed him of Senator Eric Adams' Take Back Your Community (TBOC) initiative, where members of the community come together for change. She announced that the Police Committee is hosting a TBOC meet and greet on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 6 PM at Hope City Empowerment Center located at 650 Washington Avenue. Mr. Staton also informed him that the NYPD will train interested people for the Auxiliary police who patrol the community in uniform.

After a few additional comments, a motion was made by Mr. Witherwax and seconded by Dr. Monderson to write a comment letter to the Office of Management and Budget regarding our displeasure with the agency responses. The motion carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 3 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for participating in the public hearing and suggested that community residents forward budget request items to the District office before July so that the items can be included in the next budget. She then called the general meeting of Community Board 8 to order at 8 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The minutes of the last Community Board meeting were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE – CB 8 newsletter and other material were distributed.

Ms. Granville 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 met on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm. In addition to the Chair Marlene Saunders, present were: Dr. Flize Bryan, Julia Boyd, Renaye Cuyler, Jamilah Hoy-Rosas, Kwasi Mensah, Adelaide Miller, Angelina Pinto and Patricia Scantlebury.

She announced that there will be a Town Hall meeting regarding hospital closures on Sunday, March 11, 2012 from 1pm to 3pm. The meeting will take place at the Ocean Parkway Jewish Center located at 550 Ocean Parkway. Senator John Sampson, Senator Kevin Parker, representatives of Save Our Society Net Campaign and Ms. Patricia Baker the Vice President of Employees Federation will be speaking.

It is speculated that Interfaith Hospital has irreversible financial despair which makes it impossible to run efficiently in its current form. Some of the issues are related to a large Medicaid/Medicare patient population and poor financial management.

Ms. Saunders mentioned that Interfaith, Brookdale, and Wyckoff Hospitals will be merging with Brooklyn Hospital. In addition, SUNY Downstate University Hospital will be closed and its beds will be transferred to Long Island College Hospital. For more information call: 718-788-7221 or 718-940-0641 or read the Berger report at <http://www.nyhealthcarecommission.org>

Mr. Mensah attended Community Board 3's meeting on Tuesday at Restoration Plaza and stated that these are major issues. It will work best if Boards 3 and 8 work cohesively to deal with these issues. He believes that a major reason why hospitals fail and have to close is because of financial instability. Hospitals in poor neighborhoods consists of mainly Medicaid/Medicare patients which means they depend heavily on Medicaid/Medicare payments from the City.

Mr. Worthy-Davis from Councilwoman James' office stated that the hospitals in Manhattan receive a higher reimbursement amount from Medicaid than hospitals in Brooklyn.

The next Aging/Health Committee meeting will be held, Monday, April 2, 2012, at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

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

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 and March 6, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm. In addition to the Chair Priscilla Maddox, Present for the February meeting were: Gail Branch-Muhammad, Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Helen Beichal, Yuri Castano, Alfred Chiodo, Renee Collymore, Renaye Cuyler, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Peter Krashes, Priscilla Maddox, Atim Oton, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Delissa Renolds, Kempton Mooney Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Al Taylor, Greg Todd, and Ethel Tyus,. Present at March's meeting were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Renaye Cuyler, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Atim Oton, Stacey Sheffey, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following new liquor license applications:

1. The proprietors of Fish, Fish, Mo Fish at 612 Vanderbilt Avenue (St. Marks/Prospect) initially applied with the State Liquor Authority for a full license. After hearing that the establishment fell within 200 feet of a church (Brotherhood Baptist Church), the proprietors agreed to amend their application to seek a beer/wine license. Fish, Fish, Mo Fish will operate Sundays from 3 PM to 10 PM, Monday thru Thursday from 11 AM to 10 PM, Friday and Saturday from 11 AM to 2 AM. The bar/restaurant will feature 8 seats at the bar near a television airing sporting events with another 12-17 seats at tables around the space. There are no plans to use the rear yard/patio space as of yet. The establishment will play light background music, and the walls are soundproofed.

There were no police objections to the application and the proprietors presented multiple letters of support for the venture. Ms. Albert asked what happens if the church moves. She was informed that the applicant could then apply for a full license. The committee

voted to support the beer/wine **only** application. Mr. Witherwax made a motion that the Board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried with a vote of 31 in favor, 4 opposed with no abstentions to support the beer/wine application.

2. The proprietor of Beny's Epicene made a favorable presentation before the committee complete with multiple letters of support for the venture located at 567 Vanderbilt Avenue (Pacific/Dean) that is seeking a beer/wine license. Beny's Epicene, a bakery/café offering organic vegetables and dry food, will seat a maximum of 10 people in the space and will operate daily from 7 AM to 9 PM.

There were no police objections to the application and the committee voted to support the beer/wine license application. Ms. Albert asked for a definition of dry goods and exactly where the proprietor's other store was located. She was informed that dry goods signify cake, groceries, cookies, and other items. The other store is located at 903 Fulton Street. Ms. Cuyler made a motion that the Board support the committee's recommendation . The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a vote of 28 in favor, 5 opposed with 1 abstention to support the beer/wine application.

3. The proprietors of Puerto Viejo Restaurant Corp. located at 564 Grand Avenue (corner of Dean) made a favorable presentation before the committee for their venture that is seeking a beer and wine license. Puerto Viejo will operate Sundays from 7 AM to 9 PM and Monday thru Saturday from 7 AM to 11 PM. Acorn High School is across the street from the establishment, but because it is only seeking a beer/wine license, it does not fall victim to the 200 foot rule. The establishment will feature a separate bar/counter space with 5 seats and can seat another 27 patrons at tables and booths throughout the space. There were no police objections to the application and the committee voted to support the beer/wine application. Ms. Oton clarified that the previous owners had a beer/wine license and changed the corporation name. The State Liquor Authority requires a new license if the corporation name changes. Mr. Ellis made a motion that the Board support the committee's recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Cuyler and carried with a vote of 27 in favor, 6 opposed with no abstentions.
4. The proprietors of Inaka Japanese Cuisine Inc. located at 597 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean/Bergen) made a favorable presentation before the committee for their establishment that is seeking a beer/wine license. Inaka will have 24 seats at 12 tables and will operate from 11 AM to 11 PM Monday thru Thursday, and from 11 AM to 12 AM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There will be light background music playing and soundproofing throughout the establishment.

The proprietors have another establishment, Mura, located at 369 5th Avenue in the Brooklyn Community Board 6 area. CB 6 had no issues with Mura during the time that Mura has been in business. Furthermore, there were no police objections to the application submitted by Inaka, and the committee voted to support the beer/wine license application. Ms. Taitt-Hall asked the proprietor if she had gone to the Landmarks Preservation Commission before changing the sign in front of the building. She was informed that LPC was contacted and that a favorable presentation was made before the Community Board as well. Dr. Monderson made a motion that the Board support the

committee's recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a vote of 28 in favor, 4 opposed with no abstentions to support the application.

5. The proprietors of Northside Tavern located at 688 Franklin Avenue (Prospect/Park) made a favorable presentation before the committee for their establishment that is seeking a full liquor license. Northside Tavern will feature a separate bar space with 15 seats and 50 seats at tables. 20 additional seats will be located at tables in the outdoor patio area. Northside will employ 15 people hired locally and will have a manager on duty at all times. The establishment will operate from Noon to Midnight on Sunday, Noon to 1 AM Tuesday and Wednesday, Noon to 2 AM on Thursday, and Noon to 4 AM Friday and Saturday. It will be closed on Mondays. Light background music will be played and soundproofing provided. The establishment is billed as a seasonal American restaurant that will partner with local farms.

Presently, there are 5 other establishments within 500 feet of the proposed location with full liquor licenses. Despite the fact that this is a 500 foot rule application, the committee voted to support the application because it believed the opening of another restaurant on Franklin Avenue would be good for public interest. The committee cited the fact that since the establishment is near the southern end of Franklin Avenue, it will help develop the corridor. Also, the venture was positively endorsed by the Crow Hill Community Association and one of the two principal owners live in the community and has a vested interest in seeing economic development. There were no police objections to the application and the committee voted with the condition that the backyard space close at 11 PM. Ms. Bernardine asked the proprietor if he contacted the block association on Prospect Place between Bedford and Franklin to inform them of their plans. She was informed that the block association was not contacted because it was not required. Ms. Cuyler made a motion that the Board support the committee's recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a vote of 25 in favor, 5 opposed with 1 abstention to support the liquor license application.

6. The proprietors of Mash Room Inc. located at 646 Dean Street (Vanderbilt/Carlton) made a presentation for their establishment that will act as an American whiskey seller. According to the New York State Liquor Authority, the establishment must have 2 separate addresses—one for the retail liquor space (it will sell American whiskeys), and another for the tasting room (it will sell "tastes" of the American whiskeys sold in a space divided by a dividing wall in the back of the liquor store). Two separate licenses are needed since the establishment is divided into two types of spaces: a retail sale license and an on premises consumption license. Currently, the proprietors have been advised by legal counsel that they can subdivide the addresses into 646-A and 646-B to meet the two address requirement. The committee differed in opinion, stating that the A/B designation will not suffice because there are not two separate entrances for the spaces. Furthermore, it is up to the Dept. of Buildings, Borough President's office, and Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development to designate an address.

Of further concern for the committee is that the space violates the 500 foot rule and that the tasting room will remain open until 2 AM Thursdays thru Saturdays. There was concern that the late hours would be a nuisance on a block that is more residential than commercial. The proprietors stated that there is a lot of potential for commercial clients

to use the available spaces, and further argued that the type of clientele that will utilize the tasting room will be more of a gourmet client and not the typical bar patron. In fact, in the tasting room that is only 400 sqft, there will be no tables or chairs; it will be a standing space that serves only the American Whiskeys sold in the retail space. The idea behind the space is to allow the customer to buy a taste of the whiskey and then buy a bottle to take home. It is in no way, a regular bar.

Despite the assurances from the proprietors, the committee voted to reject the application. Ms. Saunders moved that the Board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a vote of 25 in favor to support the Committee's rejection to the application, 5 against with 4 abstentions.

In addition, the committee also voted to support the following renewal applications:

1. Cataldo's Restaurant, 554 Vanderbilt Avenue between Dean/Bergen (beer/wine)
2. Branded Cattle Saloon, 603 Vanderbilt, corner of Bergen (full)
3. Franklin Park, 619 Franklin Avenue, corner of Park (full)

There were no police objections to any of the 3 renewals and the committee voted to support the renewal applications. Ms. Cuyler moved that the Board support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a vote of 26 in favor, 3 opposed with no abstentions.

Finally, the committee voted on the unenclosed sidewalk application for Basil Pizzeria located at 268 Kingston Avenue (Lincoln/Eastern Parkway). The sidewalk café will feature 6 tables with 19 total seats. The committee voted to support the unenclosed sidewalk café application. Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee's recommendation that was seconded by Ms. Cuyler. Two votes were required for the item. The first vote resulted in a tie with 14 members in favor, 8 opposed, with 6 abstentions. Mr. Ellis then made a plea, stating that while he understands that the establishment violated the rules regarding a sidewalk café last summer by operating one without a permit, there is not another sit-down space on the commercial strip. A sidewalk café could make tremendous strides in helping to revitalize Kingston Avenue. Ms. Ramirez from Heart of Brooklyn concurred, stated that Basil would be the only sidewalk café in District 8 near the Brooklyn Children's Museum. It will help keep families and money in the neighborhood. The full Board voted 13 in favor, 8 opposed with 4 abstentions to support the application on the second vote.

The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

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

The Education Committee met on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm but had no action items.

Mr. Mensah announced that one of the major issues that the district is facing in education is the closing of schools. The community needs to work together and include parent coordinators and to request their attendance at committee and Board meetings.

Ms. Bernadine announced that she attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Brooklyn Branch meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. It appears that New York University Poly Tech (NYU-POLY) is planning to establish a new social research Master and Doctorate program in Brooklyn. The MTA building at 370 Jay Street will be purchased and a portion of the building will be utilized for Entrepreneurs who are designing businesses around science, math and technology. There are hopes that the NAACP will support this initiative.

Mr. Mensah announced that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is offering a free on-line course in science and service electronics; for more information visit <https://www.ocw.mit.edu>

The next Education Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

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

The Environment/Sanitation committee met Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm. In addition to the Chair Ede Fox, present were: Tonya Bley, Micheline Brown, Elana Bulman, Helen Coley, Jonathan Connors, Christian Grigoraskos, Adam Gordan, Matthew Lebon, Eric Levinson, Annette Slonim, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Gregory Todd and Vandra Thorburn

Mr. Greg Todd stated that gas prices are extremely high and are continuing to rise. There are fewer landfills with an increased interest in green technologies. There are more people who are questioning the traditional way of New York City's waste removal management.

New York currently spends approximately one billion dollars a year to collect and dispose of 3.3 million tons of residential, non-profit and governmental waste. Approximately three-hundred million dollars per year is dedicated to haul this waste by truck to landfills as far away as Ohio. Overall figures on for-profit and commercial businesses are not available at this time.

As gas prices go up and the cost of disposing waste in distant landfills increase, New York City tax payers bear this cost. Many are beginning to ask, how can we reduce the amount of waste we produce so we don't need as much landfill space? How can we reduce the volume of waste we produce so that we don't spend as much money on gas transporting this waste? How can we use new technologies to create jobs in New York City around waste management?

Many green minded New Yorkers are coming up with innovative answers to these questions and are beginning to discuss options.

Mr. Todd's plan to collect food waste from commercial businesses is carting it on a bicycle to local composting sites and to turn the waste into compost for resale. This business model would create a great number of local part-time jobs.

The only impediment to the successful implementation of this model is the cost of obtaining a carting license. New York City has extremely stringent rules on who is permitted to cart waste. The permits are based on the costs of running a business that includes a fleet of trucks valued at \$250,000 or more. This cost makes it prohibitive to get a license for a company that will spend a maximum of \$600 on a fleet of bicycles.

Mr. Todd requested that a letter from CB8 be sent to the NYC Business Integrity Commission requesting a separate kind of carting license for smaller businesses that is less expensive and easier to obtain. The committee agreed to review the letter at the next committee meeting and then submit it to the full Board with any necessary changes for a full vote.

In addition to Community Board members and residents, Ms. Fox asks for support from the Washington Avenue Merchants Association, representatives from Heart of Brooklyn, Block Associations, the Department of Sanitation, Business Owners, and others who would be an asset to composting.

The Environment/Sanitation Committee along with the Heart of Brooklyn and Washington Avenue Merchants will come together for a clean up on Washington Avenue on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 11:30am to 2:00pm. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Fox announced that the Solid Waste Advisory Board will be meeting at Borough Hall on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 6:30pm. Mr. Todd will attend this meeting and explain his initiatives on beginning the process of trying to reduce the amount of waste that NYC produces and sends to landfills. It is important for community residents to come out to give feedback on what the Mayor proposes on composting.

The next Environment/Sanitation Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

FIRE/SAFETY – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chairperson

The Fire/Safety Committee did not meet in February. Mr. Witherwax encouraged everyone to attend the next Fire/Safety Committee meeting. Keep in mind that fire safety is important.

The next Fire/Safety committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 6:30pm at the Center for Nursing and rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30PM.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 6:30pm. In addition to the Chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: Akosua Albritton, Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Samantha Bernadine, Phu Duong, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Emily N., Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Sharon

Wedderburn, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following landmark applications:

588 Vanderbilt Avenue – Prospect Heights Historic District

Ms. Vivian DeConcini, member of 588 Vanderbilt LLC, the building owner, appeared to discuss renovations made to the stoop and gate of the four-unit apartment building where she resides and where the work was done without first contacting the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). Ms. DeConcini has filed a Certificate of Appropriateness application with LPC to legalize the work. A Certificate of Appropriateness ("C of A") is needed when the proposed work requires a Department of Buildings permit and will affect significant protected architectural features. Additions, demolitions, new construction, and removal of architectural features such as stoops and cornices usually require a C of A. When the proposed work does not require a permit from the Department of Buildings, but has been denied a Permit for Minor Work by the Commission, the owner may apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

According to the LPC designation report, the building was designed by Timothy A. Remsen and built c.1890s. An LPC hearing had not been set for the application at the time of the Housing/ULURP Committee meeting. Ms. DeConcini stated that the work was mainly repairs to the wrought iron gate, six foot high fencing, and abutting brownstone wall and were required due to water damage. She also indicated she had safety and sanitation issues where the fencing prevented trespassers from gathering on the stoop and from using the basement entryway as a toilet. She explained that the height of the fencing, at six feet, did not align with the four-foot high fences fronting some of the other buildings on the streetscape, many of which have been removed. The Committee questioned Ms. DeConcini closely as to why the work was done without contacting LPC but did not receive a reasonable answer.

During an in-depth discussion on the Community Board's need for a rational policy to establish precedents to address the many instances of 'retroactive' applications for work being done on facades in the Historic Districts without contacting LPC, several Committee members voiced their concerns that the significance and benefits of having landmarks designation will be substantially diluted if instances of disregard for the designation status go unchallenged.

A Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) representative made a motion that the committee to deny the applicant's request for support of LPC's issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. The committee voted 13 in favor, 3 against, with 1 abstention to recommend that LPC decline to approve the work as completed, and instead to work with the applicant to make the façade changes compliant with LPC's rules, and strongly recommended that the full Board do the same.

Responding to a question from the audience as to why the work was completed prior to going to Landmarks, Ms. DeConcini stated that part of the fence was stolen and the reason she did not go to Landmarks before making the changes was because the contractor had to start the work. She further stated that LPC is concerned with what the work looks like, not whether they went to LPC first. The Community Board should be focused on the same thing.

Ms. Cuyler made a motion to support the committee's recommendation to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 3 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

611 Vanderbilt Avenue – Prospect Heights Historic District

Tim Harris appeared for Matilda Boland, proprietor of newly opened restaurant, Always Sunny Corp doing business as The Calf BK which has filed a Certificate of Appropriateness application with LPC to legalize the work. The property owner, Duke Saunders, was also present for his tenant's presentation. The application is to legalize the replacement of storefront infill and an exterior security gate without LPC permits. The application is Item #5 on LPC's 3/20/12 Hearing calendar. The structure is a Renaissance Revival style store and flats building designed by Peter M. Cassidy and built c.1893. Mr. Harris stated that the work was done without a permit because of an emergency created by the then existing wood and glass infill being unstable and one side falling down. They replaced the wood and glass with aluminum and glass. The prior solid roll-down security gate was replaced with a 75% to 80% transparent gate. The Committee questioned Mr. Harris closely as to why the work was done without contacting LPC but did not receive a reasonable answer.

Based on the in-depth discussions described above, a PHNDC representative moved the committee to deny the applicant's request for support of LPC's issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. The committee voted 15 in favor with 2 abstentions to recommend that LPC decline to approve the work as completed, and instead to work with the applicant to make the façade changes compliant with LPC's rules, and strongly recommended that the full Board do the same.

Ms. Oton asked if the Dept. of Buildings (DOB) had granted a permit for the work to be completed. She was informed by Ms. Tyus that DOB will not issue a permit without a prior permit from the LPC to do the work. Therefore, it is doubtful that the applicants had a permit to complete the work. With this information, a motion was made by Ms. Albritton and seconded by Ms. Oton to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. It carried with a finally tally of 25 in favor, 2 opposed, with 8 abstentions.

To conclude, Ms. Tyus stated that the committee and Board want people to go to the Landmarks Preservation Commission prior to completing work on their property. You know that you are in a landmark historic district; proper procedures must be followed. She also announced that at the next Housing ULURP Committee meeting, the committee will review the proposed rezoning area and plans for it. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are encouraged to attend.

PARKS & RECREATION – Ms. Glinda Andrews; Chairperson, Kim Albert, Vice Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at the St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6:00pm. In addition to the Chair Glinda Andrews, present were: Catherine Adams, Kim Albert, Desmond Atkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Audrey Boyd, Julia Boyd, Leslie Cuprill, Tracy Evans, George Harvey, Phil Hawkins, Willard Hawkins, Gerald Spence, James Turner and Vilma Zuniga.

Ms. Andrews announced that the Dean Street Playground was approved. Work on the Comfort Station will begin shortly. This project is slated to be completed in fall 2012.

The Parks & Recreation Committee's Community Awareness Day is coming up. Please inform and invite your neighbors and organizations to sign up for this event which will take place on Saturday, June 9, 2012. For more information contact the District Office at 718-467-5574.

The next Parks Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 2, 2012 at the St. John's Recreation Center, 1251 Prospect Place-1st Floor Library.

POLICE – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson

The Police Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2012 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00pm. In addition to the Chair Shalawn Langhorne, present were: Kim Albert, Dorothy Jean Bembry-Guet, Willard Hawkins, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Captain Myrie.

Ms. Langhorne stated that the community raised concerns about the overwhelming issues of pet owners who refuse to clean up their dog feces. Several complaints have been made to the Department of Sanitation; however, it was suggested that residents monitor and note the time in which pet owners are committing such violations. Community residents believe that this method is unreliable and ineffective.

Another issue addressed was regarding the front desk and some officers at the 77th precinct. Some complaints included vacancy at the front desk and rude greetings and unsettled tones by some officers and front desk personnel. These two complaints have been ongoing with community residents for many years. Captain Myrie who is the executive officer of the 77th precinct, assured the committee and community residents that he will follow up with the complaint.

Residents on Pacific Street between Utica and Rochester are complaining that trucks are parking in the middle of the street and blocking their drive thru. One community residents witnessed and reported a police car that drove on the curb to by-pass the illegally parked truck without ticketing or towing it. Captain Myrie explained that residents may report and request an aggressive tow.

The meeting date and location for the TBOC Meet & Greet has changed to Monday, March 26, 2012 at Hope City Empowerment City from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Music will be provided by retired Detective Todd Taylor of Taylor Made Productions.

The committee is requesting Block Association Presidents to provide email addresses and to commit at least three people from their block to attend the meetings and the TBOC event. The committee is also asking for businesses to donate food and drinks.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2012 at the 77th precinct at 6:00pm. All are invited to attend.

TRANSPORTATION – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee did not meet in February. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00PM.

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chairperson

The Youth & Family Services committee met Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30pm. In addition to the Chair Akosua Albritton, present were: Angeli Rasbury, Audrey Taitt-Hall and Genel Williams.

Ms. Albritton stated that in a previous meeting, the Youth and Family Services Committee discussed the proposed legislation by New York State Senator Eric Adams pertaining to support of the ‘No SAG’ campaign. The committee reviewed the legislative resolution that would prevail upon the Mayor of the City of New York and the New York City Schools Chancellor for support in forbidding children from displaying their undergarments in school.

The committee members present were opposed to sagging pants but voted against the resolution due to concern for expending money or promulgating legislation for sanctions on indecent exposure already in existence. Rather, our officials and community leaders ought to be on the street talking with the young men and not criminalize the youth. Adults need to engage the youth in conversation. Members also felt that the dress may indicate a self-esteem issue that needs attention.

The committee believes that it is up to the Department of Education to evenly enforce the existing dress code for their students. Many principals and teachers do request students to pull up their pants. There are city ordinances regarding indecent exposure that the NYPD can choose to consistently enforce. There isn't a need to focus on public schools when young men with sagging pants can be seen in various locales and times in the city. Focusing on public schools doesn't cover all the touch points for changing behavior. The committee was concerned whether school safety officers, who are part of NYPD, would be utilized to enforce school dress codes.

Mr. Jesse Hamilton stated that the SAG campaign is not intended to criminalize the youth. Parents have addressed this issue to Senator Adams along with ways on getting students to pull their pants up in school.

Mr. Witherwax asked if the SAG campaign puts a law on the books criminalizing sagging pants. He was informed that it does not, that it is merely a letter from the community board to support the resolution banning sagging pants in school. Ms. Taitt-Hall stated that kids are not allowed to enter school property with their undergarments exposed. This fact makes the SAG campaign redundant. Mr. Hamilton stated that prior to working for Senator Adams, he served as president of the District 17 Education Council. The SAG campaign was started because too many kids are sagging their pants not only on the street, but on school property as well. Its intent is not to criminalize baggy pants as it seems to be interpreted by the committee. He went on to say that sagging pants are a part of the prison mentality. Belts are confiscated from inmates, causing their pants to fall below the waist leading to sagging. Currently, 5 other community boards have

signed onto the campaign. The Senator and his supporters just want to make sure that schools continue to be an environment for learning.

The Youth/Family Services Committee voted to reject Senator Adams' Legislative Resolution; however, the full board voted in favor of the resolution, 24 in favor, 9 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene's changes to the Health Code that have had an impact on child care services. Centers will be required to check infants more frequently while sleeping and document their observations. The Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene will provide more details on what may cause any child care center to close.

Ms. Albritton mentioned that funding for the Dept of Youth & Community Development/SYEP was \$38.9 million as of Feb. 22, 2012.

In other news the committee discussed the New York Youth Work Tax Credit which is a work incentive for businesses who may earn up to \$4000 in tax credits for hiring youths. Employed youths may earn a stipend of up to \$900. Interested businesses and youth must apply to the NYS Dept. of Labor by June 1, 2012.

Audrey Taitt-Hall read the Public Advocate Bill De Blasio's report on the relevance of career and technical education programs in public schools. In short, Public Advocate De Blasio found that the programs are falling short on meeting business and human services needs. There is no training in counseling or family services forecasts reveal an 18% increase in demand. He prepared a six-point plan to prepare teens for future jobs in demand through the School's Career and Technical Education.

Ms. Albritton attended a meeting held by Fort Greene Association along with other representatives from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Fort Greene SNAP, NYS Dept. of Labor and several other groups. The discussion was based on existing programs to either employ or assist people in starting a business. She is seeking ways to set up an information table, possible speakers, or exhibitors. A draft of the program outline was distributed.

Lastly, the committee discussed the suggested name for this event. They came up with Green Heights: Energy & Technology Bash for Crown and Prospect Heights; Keeping Brooklyn Viable and Strong. The tentative date, time and location for this event will be Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11 AM to 5 PM at St. Joseph's RC Church.

The next meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee will be Wednesday, April 2, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Dynishal Gross from Councilwoman Mealy's office announced that the Councilwoman has discretionary funds to distribute to the community. She also announced that Councilwoman Mealy has been chosen to be the Co-Chair of delegations funding. Ms. Gross distributed the Councilwoman's newsletter and announced that the Councilwoman is introducing the "Closer to

Home” initiative, an initiative designed to bring Brooklyn juveniles closer to their homes while serving their detention sentences. For more information on the initiative, please contact the Councilwoman’s office at 718-953-3097.

Mr. Charles Jackson from Congresswoman Clarke’s office announced that the Congressional Arts Contest for high school students. The winner will go to Capitol Hill to receive an award. The ultimate winner will receive a scholarship. For more information on the contest, contact the Congresswoman’s office at 718-287-1142.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM. The next meeting of Community Board 8 will take place on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Guests

Aaron G
Maxx Colson
Elisse H
Ruben Z
Josh Thompson
Boris Ginet
David Benizeri
Salvatore Cataldo
Keren V
Alison Conforti
Julia Macedo
V Carty
Anthony Taylor
Ari Friedman
Marjona Jones
Hannah Faddis
Shirley Mondesir
Viva Delonaini
Angela Amoia

Li Fang
Erica Phillips
Audrey Andrews
Julia Kerson
Jacques B
Willard Hawkins
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Shard Ramharrack
Tracy Moore
Constance Lesold
Carolyn Saunders
Phil Hawkins
Mark Thurton
Danae Oratowski
Phil Mcfadden
Valerie Nero-Reid
Lula Staton
Gloria Overby