

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
EDISON O JACKSON AUDITORIUM
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
1638 & 1650 BEDFORD AVENUE, BROOKLYN, 11225**

Members Present

Amy Albert
Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Rev. Douglas Banks
Fred Baptiste
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Michael Cetera, AIA
Veta May Clarke
Ben Edwards
Milton Ellis
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonsales
Aron Hershkop
Laura Imperiale
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Yvonne Straker

Members Present

Louis Johnson
Demetrius Lawrence
Avi Lesches
Michael Liburd
Carmen Martinez
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Diana Richardson
Roosevelt Rose
Kenya Solas
Rabbi Joseph Speilman
Ada Terry
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Members Absent

Josette Coicou-Brioche
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Denise Mann
Nacala Mitchell
Gerald President
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Brenda Scott
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Kicy Motley – Mayor Bill DeBlasio
Brian Cunningham – Hon. Laurie Cumbo
Eli Slavin - Hon. Yvette Clarke
William H. Boone - Medgar Evers College
Hon. Geoffrey Davis
Hon. Olanike Alabi
Joseph Yanis – Hon. Walter Mosley
Karen Chambers – Hon. Kenneth P. Thompson

Arna Lipkind - Hon. Darlene Mealy
Ramona Calieja – Hon. Mathieu Eugene
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara
Hon. Laurie Cumbo
Hon. Jessie Hamilton
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jessie Hamilton
Kelvin Alexander – Hon. Eric Adams
Joseph Yaniz – Hon. Walter Mosley

Chairman **Dwayne Nicholson** will bring the community up to date on the status of the Community Board's request to the Department of City Planning to conduct a zoning study of Community District 9. Actions

taken to date and where we are at present. Please note: Representatives from the Department of City Planning will be on hand to address questions regarding the process for a zoning study

Chairman Dwayne Nicholson introduced himself and welcomed all in the room as it filled. We began with an introduction to the new executive committee seated on stage. Laura Imperiale - First Vice-Chairperson, Demetrius Lawrence – Second Vice Chairperson, Rosemarie Perry – Secretary, Diana Richardson - Treasurer was mentioned but not on stage because she was working just outside signing in attendees at the table while making efforts to keep the passageway clear. Jacqueline Welch - Member at Large, Evelyn Williams - Member-at-large and District Manager Pearl Miles.

The Chairman asked all of the Board's Committee chairpersons present to introduce themselves and say a little about their committee:

Amy Albert chairs the Youth Services Committee which meets the first Thursday of the month. Next meeting will be on October 2nd. Amy mentions the agenda for the October meeting will include information on the imprisonment of 17 year olds and their experience in Central Booking. In addition, Amy will review what is happening to date with Universal Pre-K, afterschool programs, and much more. She has requested your presence and information from you for this meeting. Please bring your questions and also let everyone know what the young people in this community need.

Avi Lesches chairs the Public Safety Committee. He will schedule an October committee meeting and asks everyone to check our website for details in the next couple of weeks

Executive Committee Introductions were completed and Committee chairperson introductions were in progress as the room was filled to capacity and the passageways could no longer be safely cleared, so, representatives of Medgar Evers College offered the Community Board a much larger auditorium directly across the street in order to continue our meeting safely and allow the unusually large number in attendance a place to sit. Everyone settled into the Founders Meeting Room and the sound system was made live and ready for use at approximately 8:20 PM

Our public session continued in the new venue with an introduction from Michael Cetera (Parks Committee). The committee works to develop parks and public open space.

Afterwards 18 new board members came up to the microphone to introduce themselves to all in attendance, including Ben Edwards who is the chairman for the ULURP and 197a committees.

The agenda was then interrupted again with civil disturbance by people from outside of the community and District Leader Geoffrey Davis. The 71 Precinct again sought clearance of doorways and aisles to prevent a fire safety hazard.

A representative from Eric Adams office, Kelvin Alexander, made a statement saying that the Borough President removed board members from Community Board 9 because what the Board did regarding the resolution was illegal.

District Manager Miles commented on the civil disobedience; followed by officers from the 71 Precinct.

Members of the community who had registered for speaking time at the meeting were called upon to make their statements, beginning with Suwen Cheong representing PPEN, addressed the building being erected at 626 Flatbush Avenue; her remarks were mostly inaudible due to loud outbursts and more chaos.

The next speaker Elizabeth Macken spoke about her love for this community; her remarks were also inaudible

Alicia Boyd charged the stage and slammed papers on the stage while shouting "Pearl Miles you have been served" She followed this demonstration by stacking reams of paper on the stage, which she claimed were the signatures of people who do not want Empire Boulevard to be developed; the rest of her performance comprised further civil disobedience, chants, and chaos

Brenda Edwards followed letting us know her history in Crown Heights as a teacher at Erasmus and the public school system for 30 years. She reaffirmed her request for rezoning in this area, need for contextual rezoning with special attention to building height. An emphasis should be placed on the subways, schools, sanitation, parking in the development process. Ms. Edwards urged everyone to protect and develop affordable housing in Prospect Lefferts Gardens in a sensible manner.

Tim Thomas, a member of Community Board 9 and a blogger for Q at Parkside, stated "to say no to development is to say no to affordable housing."

District leader Davis led the crowd in more loud and disruptive civil disobedience as members of the chairman and members of the executive committee struggled to continue with the agenda and maintain order.

Celeste Lacey Davis said that land marking of houses is not enough, we need rezoning in Community District 9. She stated that we are having these problems with zoning now in our community because the Department of City Planning sat on earlier requests for rezoning our community district to protect us from reckless development.

James Betts spoke about our community being the heart of Brooklyn, a striving area of diversity with parks, gardens, architecture, shops, and entrepreneurs. He stated this has always been an area available to the middle class. The rest of his statement was inaudible.

Cheryl Sealy a member of PPEN stated through shouting and chanting, in unity there is strength, if we don't get together we won't get a thing, it's time.

Dr. Tolbert, a resident on Lincoln road for 11 years, said he would like to hear the resolution. He stated he is a proponent of smart development that is contextual, with attention to the infrastructure. Housing is a human right not displacement

More shouting and chanting

Chairman Nicholson asked District Manager Miles to please read the resolution. The District Manager did her best to explain what went into the making of the resolution. She kept reading while her voice was drowned out by shouts of "read the resolution" "read the resolution" "read the resolution". Ms. Miles then got to the reading of the resolution, and despite trying to do as the disrupters were requesting, she was again drowned out by the loud chanting and screaming that was prompted by Alicia Boyd. Ms. Miles became frustrated and told the audience to "shut up"

There was even more shouting and name calling followed by civil disobedience; there was so much noise that it was difficult to hear what specifically people were saying.

A representative from NHS reports there are meetings about affordable housing the third Tuesday of every month.

Fred Baptiste stated we will not find a perfect solution and process does matter

Amy Albert said that she wants the process to move forward and gain consensus

BUSINESS SESSION:

The business session began with 31 members present.

Two committee reports are referred to the committee chairs state there is nothing to add.

Fred Baptiste made a motion that the resolution be rescinded and sent back to the ULURP Committee; the motion was seconded by Reverend Douglas Banks. Board members voted 16 yes, 9 no, 8 abstentions. The motion was defeated.

Chairman Nicholson made a motion to adjourn seconded by Demetrius Lawrence. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Rosemarie Perry
Secretary
October 28, 2014