

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2013
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, 11225**

Members Present

Amy Albert
Pastor Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Simone Bennett
Warren Phillip Berke
Michael Cetera, A.I.A.
Aldith Clarke
Shirley Dor
Shelia Foster-Golding
Charlene Gayle
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross

Members Present

Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Aron Hershkop
Myra Holmes
Laura Imperiale
Daniel Igvoldstad
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Diana Richardson
Brenda Scott
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Members Absent

Rev. Phyllis Brown - sick
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Edmund Fanning
Flavia Francis
Cedieu Gouin
Sylveta H. Gonzales - out of the country
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Jacqueline Love
Demetrius Lawrence
Frank Nicholas
Gerald President
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Victoria St. Clair – death in the family
Yvonne Straker – sick

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Debra LeSane – Kings County Hospital
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Fernando Fernandez – Hon. Letitia James
Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Honorable Shirley Patterson
Tobi Jaiyesimi – Hon. Walter T. Mosley

Rene Albert – Hon. Eric Adams
Jesse Hamilton – Hon. Eric Adams
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Honorable Renee Collymore
Val Henry – Downstate Medical Center

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Alexander Enriquez, Director of Government and Community Relations, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, will present plans for the new Gardener's Courtyard Pavilion, (part of the reconstruction of the Flatbush Avenue Entrance to the Garden) for Community Board Approval.

Mr. Enriquez brought before the Board, the plan for two small structures in the garden: The Classroom Pavilion, and the Horticulture Storage Building. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden were bringing these two items

before the Landmarks Preservation Commission and needed the Community Board's support. These two small buildings are all part of the project that includes the reconstruction of the Flatbush Avenue entrance to the garden.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Enriquez for his presentation and assured him that the Community Board liked the structures and would vote on providing a letter in support of the project in the Business Session.

Inspector John Lewis, Commanding Officer, 71 Precinct

Inspector Lewis gave an overview on crime in the district. He informed that there has not been any shootings since Labor Day. There has been twenty shootings this year, the majority not life threatening. Tremendous work has been done by the detectives; of the twenty shootings, six were homicides. There were fourteen non-fatal shootings this year that led to arrests. Every person arrested this year for shootings is in jail awaiting trial.

One great problem this year was grand larceny. Please shred your documents, the robbers are using these documents to get your money. Be careful if you use the ATM machine; if you walk into a lobby with an ATM machine and someone tells you it's not working be careful they might be working with someone else. They will get your pin number, take out \$200 per clip then continue to max out your account. There are four to six machines where we know this has happened.

Electronic devices are another problem; most times children are robbed while going home from school. Be careful how you use these devices in the street. The police are trying to reach out to the schools to try to work with the students in an effort to get them away from crime. They are also reaching out to the parents to work with them to see how we can prevent crime among our young people.

Questions and Answers:

Community Resident: Could you explain what is going on with the Stop and Frisk? **Answer:** That is a hot topic. It is not a policy of the NYPD. It is a practice by all law enforcement throughout the country. Some people want to take it to court; this makes it difficult for the police to do their work. The police will be monitored.

Community Resident: What about the freeze zone on Friday? **Answer:** President Obama will be visiting a school in Crown Heights on Friday, October 25, 2013 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. He will be landing in Prospect Park. The streets from Empire Boulevard starting at Flatbush Avenue to Kingston Avenue up to Bergen Street will be closed from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This will also include Eastern Parkway, cars will not be allowed to park on any streets after midnight on Friday morning. There will be gridlock on Friday, it is easier to walk or ride your bicycle.

Amy Albert: How easy is it to get a gun? **Answer:** It is easy, gun violence is prevalent in clubs, bars etc. That is where we need to make the push. We have been pretty lucky on gun violence this year. We monitor groups on the internet.

Chairman Goldstein: Many of us have iPods that cost over five hundred dollars, don't use them in the streets, as this will attract thieves.

Medgar Evers Preparatory School Representative: We have incidents where students from the school have been robbed on their way home. **Answer:** The park by Ebbets Field is a problematic area. We have some

robberies at the McDonald's. There have been a lot of robberies at the park near Ebbets Field. We are trying to get more cops over that area. We will try to work on it. Don't be too complacent, the thieves are watching, don't leave your doors open; don't leave packages on the stoop. Don't do anything that will attract the wrong person.

District Manager Pearl Miles: What about the Halloween Walk? **Answer:** The Halloween Walk will take place on October 31st. The walk begins at Rutland Road and Flatbush Avenue at 5:30 pm. Call the 71 Precinct for more information.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Inspector Lewis for his presentation, and assured him that he is always welcome to speak to the community at Community Board 9's monthly meetings.

Eric Palatnik, Attorney at Law, will present the application submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals under Calendar No. 5-28-BZ. The owner seeks a change of a non-conforming use, previously granted under Calendar No. 5-28-BZ, from a Use Group 16 Automotive Service Station; to a Use Group 8 Car Rental Establishment at 664 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, between Hawthorne and Winthrop Streets.

ULURP Committee Chairman Michael Cetera informed that Mr. Michael Nacmias met with the committee. The committee voted to recommend that Community Board 9 approve the application.

Representing Eric Palatnick is Mr. Michael Nacmias. Mr. Nacmias informed that the property has been in existence since 1928 when the Board of Standards and Appeals accepted the application for a gas station. The gas station has been there for some time. We are now at the Board of Standard and Appeals to get a variance for a car rental business – Enterprise Car Rental – which will take the place of the garage.

When we met with the ULURP Committee a couple of issues came up. Enterprise is prepared to spend five hundred thousand dollars to clean up environmentally what was left in the ground from the underground tanks of the previous gas station to prepare the property for the operation of the rental car service. The hours of operation proposed are: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday, 7:30 pm to noon; on Sundays they will be closed.

The property will be enclosed by a chain linked fence with green slats woven in. Cars can actually be seen on the inside. There will not be any car repairs on the property, no changes will be made. The building will be renovated and turned into an office for walk-ins, standard in rental car offices. On the Hawthorne Street side there will be space for about five cars. On Winthrop Street there will be space for about sixteen to eighteen cars for rental.

Questions and Answers:

Community Resident: Do you think that five hundred thousand dollars will be sufficient to clean up the property to be environmentally usable? **Answer:** From what I understand from my office I don't think that five-hundred thousand dollars will be a cap.

Rosemarie Perry: You mentioned that on the Winthrop Street side there will be parking. Will cars be parked on the streets? **Answer:** According to the plan there will be no public spaces taken up on the streets. The

property takes up the whole corner on the Winthrop Street side. On the Hawthorne Street side, cars will be going in and out.

Community Resident: This is a franchise? **Answer:** No, it is owned by Enterprise.

Chairman Goldstein: What he is saying is, yes, Enterprise owns the business, it is not a franchise. They are the direct owners.

Community Resident: Inaudible.

Chairman Goldstein: New York State Law sets criteria on such environmental activities. Before you can renovate such areas you must meet the state environmental protection standards. They have approved the study that was given to them. Any gas station to be changed must follow the New York State Law.

Community Resident: Has there been any study done regarding the underground gas? **Answer:** As I said we are going to make sure that every environmental study is done. We are prepared to spend five-hundred thousand dollars to ensure that everything required, will get done.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Nacmias for his presentation.

Public Hearing on Community Board 9's FY 2015 Capital and Expense Budget Requests

Capital Budget Requests

Chairman Goldstein informed that members were sent the Capital and Expense Budget Requests by email. This is the time to discuss the budget as presented. This is a public hearing. District Manager, Pearl Miles would like Board members to know that if they would like any priorities to be changed, that this is the time to do so.

Pearl Miles: "Schools were placed as high priority requests, such as Medgar Evers Preparatory School, the children need physical education credits to graduate, but the school doesn't have a gymnasium. They are hurting the children; I have given the schools top priority. Kings County provided their information late and I listed them at a lower priority, I think they should be moved up on the list.

Questions and Answers:

Community Resident: What does CS mean? **Pearl Miles:** Items with CS means continued support. These items are fully funded so we provide continued support until the projects are completed. If the items have XX it means that they were completed so they are taken off the requests.

Tricia Mecklembourg, Second Vice-Chair of the Parent Teacher Association, Medgar Evers Preparatory School informed that the Board of Education built Medgar Evers Preparatory School without a gymnasium. As Ms. Miles stated, the students need seven credits of physical education in order to graduate. Gym is done in the hallways. It is cold in the winter. High school students come in the morning at 7:30 am for zero period. I have had to watch our students participate in physical education in a make-shift gym in their four years of high

school. We have been going around asking for community support. The school has a ninety-eight percent performance rating at every level.

Melanie Lewis: I am just baffled, you have such a great school in the community and other educational institutions are not sharing resources with Medgar Evers Preparatory School. Medgar Evers College has an auditorium and a gymnasium, why aren't they sharing? Clara Barton has a gym also.

Tricia Mecklembourg: We share sometimes with Medgar Evers College, Clara Barton and Prospect Heights High School.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session began at 8:00 pm with twenty-seven members present.

Minutes of the September 2013 Meeting.

The minutes of the September 2013 meeting was presented for correction and adoption. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Samuel Marmulzsteyn and seconded by Dwayne Nicholson. The Minutes were adopted.

District Manager's Report – Pearl Miles

- The Select Bus Service will be in service on November 17, 2013. There will be a meeting at Brooklyn College Student Center, second Floor, on November 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm to discuss the changes, for example: the kiosk for purchasing fares, delivery for trucks, parking; dedicated bus lane, etc. Brooklyn College is located at East 27th Street and Campus Road.
- Beginning November 17, 2013, the B44 Limited will become the B44SBS; the B44 local will remain the B44.
- Streets will be closed for the Presidents' visit through the community starting midnight of October 24, 2013. Do not park on Empire Boulevard, Flatbush Avenue, Kingston Avenue or Eastern Parkway in our district.
- The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will attend next month's Community Board meeting to discuss the new healthcare system that is mandatory for all those without healthcare. You will be able to ask all the questions you need to be answered about the new healthcare program. Some of the libraries are also locations where you can sign up. I am thinking of making space at the Board office available one day per week to help the community with the process.
- This coming Saturday at Wingate Park, they are looking for volunteers. Please call Vivia Morgan if you would like to volunteer (718)767-7690.

- On Sunday, October 27, 2013, there will be a Halloween Fun Day at Wingate Park sponsored by Councilmember Mathieu Eugene and Senator Eric Adams. Time: 12:00 pm to 4:00pm, Rutland Road and Brooklyn Avenue.
- Victory Assembly of God Church will be hosting their annual pre-Thanksgiving luncheon on Saturday, November 23, 2013. It's free, at Albany Manor, beginning at 11:00 am. There will be a show, entertainment and care packages. It is free to the homeless and anyone in the community who would like to attend.
- Halloween Party at Full Gospel Assembly Church, 131 Sullivan Place from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving – November 3, 2013, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Brooklyn College. Tickets are free and can be picked up at Senator Adams office, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm 1669 Bedford Avenue at the corner of Montgomery Street, call (718) 284-4700.
- Kings County Health Insurance Workshop on Affordable Housing System, October 30, 2013 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Kings County Hospital "C" Building Auditorium – 451 Clarkson Avenue. You have to register at <http://healthinsurance101kchc.eventbrite.com> or call (212) 788-3450 by October 23, 2013. Refreshments will be provided.
- The Medgar Evers Preparatory admissions policy has been changed by the Department of Education. The school has been removed from nationwide access to just district wide status. There will be a meeting of parents and community residents on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 6:30 pm at Medgar Evers Preparatory School Auditorium – 1186 Nostrand Avenue, to voice your concern and to send a message to the Department of Education that they should not make decisions like this without community input.

Committees' Reports

Housing Committee – Rosemarie Perry – Chairperson (See written report)

Economic Development Committee - Warren Berke – Chairperson (See written report)

Youth Services Committee –Amy Albert, Chairperson (See written report)

Health and Social Services Committee – Pastor Robert Ambrose, Chairperson (See written report)

Education Committee – Fred Baptiste, Chairperson (See written report)

Last month the Education Committee requested a resolution be sent to the Department of Education regarding their policies on schools in the district. Medgar Evers Preparatory School was discussed; the second school is Jackie Robinson. There will be a hearing on the Jackie Robinson School, this Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Jackie Robinson School, 46 McKeever Place, to discuss the changes to the administrative policies. Community input is needed. The Committee would like the support of Community Board 9 to have a resolution from Community Board 9 to the Department of Education regarding their policies on our schools.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Michael Cetera, A.I.A., Chairperson (See written report)

Requesting the Board to send two letters: one to the New York City Transit Authority to vacate the parking lot on Flatbush Avenue/Empire Boulevard/Ocean Avenue, to make way for, as requested by the community, a plaza with benches, etc. And one to the Department of Transportation recommending that since the agency says it does not have the full funding for the project, that the available funds be used to complete the project in two phases: Phase I: Malbone Street; Phase II: the rest of the project.

Transportation Committee – Edmund Fanning, Chairperson (See written report)

Chairman’s Report – Rabbi Jacob Goldstein

Chairman Goldstein reminded everyone about the upcoming election and asked that they exercise their civic duty by going out to vote. The Chairman congratulated the winners in the September Primaries: Councilmember Mathieu Eugene, Council member elect Laurie Cumbo, Council member Darlene Mealy.

The Chairman also acknowledged the following elected officials and representatives: District Leader Shirley Patterson, District Leader Renee Collymore; Debra Lesane representing Kings County Hospital; Arna Lipkind representing Councilmember Mealy; Fernando Fernandez representing Councilmember Letitia James; Charles Jackson representing Congress member Yvette Clarke; Tobi Jaiyesimi representing Assemblyman Walter Mosley; Rene Albert, Jesse Hamilton and Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Adams; Val Henry representing Downstate Medical Center.

Voting Items

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Motion by Michael Cetera to support the two structures presented by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the motion was seconded by Pastor Robert Ambrose. **Voting:** Yes – 27; No – 0; Abs – 0

Clove Road Reconstruction

Motion by Michael Cetera to send the following letters, seconded by Amy Albert.

Motion to send a letter to the Department of Transportation to proceed with the reconstruction of Clove Road/Malbone Street in two phases, beginning with the paving of Malbone Street as soon as possible.

Motion to send a letter to the New York City Transit Authority to vacate the parking lot on Flatbush Avenue/Empire Boulevard/Ocean Avenue to allow the establishment of a community plaza. **Voting:** Yes – 28; No – 0; Abs – 0

BSA Calendar No. 5-28-BZ

The owner seeks a change of non-conforming use, previously granted under Calendar No. 5-28-BZ. Motion by Michael Cetera was seconded by Rabbi Nochum Gross to support the application under Calendar No. 5-28-BZ, Car Rental. **Voting:** Yes – 28; No – 0; Abs – 1

Capital Budget Requests

Motion made by Amy Albert and seconded by Rosemarie Perry to accept the Capital Budget Requests with reprioritization of Kings County Hospital's requests. **Voting:** Yes – 29; No – 0; Abs – 0

Expense Budget Requests

Motion was made by Stuart Balberg and seconded by Laura Imperiale to accept the Expense Budget Requests as presented. **Voting:** Yes – 29; No – 0; Abs – 0

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene thanked the community for all the work they are doing. He said it takes all of us to do the job. **On Friday, October 18, 2013**, he had a press conference at Church Avenue on Immigration. He would like to impress on the federal government to pass the Immigration Bill in Congress. Call your congressperson to vote for the Immigration Bill. The Councilmember also highlighted the following activities that he is sponsoring:

On Thursday, October 24, 2013, he is sponsoring a meeting for the community to raise any issues or concerns they may have about the neighborhood and to have them addressed by the agencies that will be present. Agencies include: The Department of Buildings, The Department of Consumer Affairs, The Department of Environmental Protection, The Department of Transportation, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, The Department of Parks and Recreation, The Department of Sanitation, The New York City Comptroller and The Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium at Middle School 2, 655 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, October 24, 2013, get your flu-shot sponsored by the Brookdale Hospital and Medical Center in partnership with Councilmember Mathieu Eugene at Brookdale Family Care Center – 1095 Flatbush Avenue between Clarendon and Cortelyou Roads, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The Mobile Legal Help Center is a partnership between the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) and the New York State Courts Access to justice Program that provides free civil legal services to New Yorkers in need. The vehicle will be stationed at Fenimore Street Senior Center, 276 Fenimore Street, Brooklyn, on **October 25, 2013 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

The Councilmember advised that he had received a draft report from the Police Commissioner showing where the cameras that he provided funding for will be placed in the community.

Announcements

District Leader, Renee Collymore would like to invite the community as a form of appreciation to the poll workers, next Wednesday, October 28, 2013 at 444 Clinton Avenue, between Gates and Green Avenues at 6:30 pm. This will help boost morale. This includes the 43rd and 35th electoral districts.

District Leader, Jesse Hamilton, would like the community to be aware of people who are calling you to sign up for Obamacare. Unless you know that it is legitimate don't let them pressure you into signing.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Theopia Green and seconded by Pastor Robert Ambrose. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Shelia Foster-Golding

Secretary

November 15, 2013