MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014
FOUNDERS AUDITORIUM
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
1650 BEDFORD AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Board Members Present
Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Rev. Douglas Banks
Fred Baptiste
Warren Berke
Josette Colcou-Brioche
Milton Ellis
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Laura Imperiale
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Louis Johnson
Demetrios Lawrence
Avi Lesches
Michael Liburd

Board Members Present
Denise Mann
Carmen Martinez
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Pia Raymond
Diana Richardson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Brenda Scott
Kenya Sollas
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Speilman
Yvonne Straker
Ada Terry
Timothy Thomas
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent
Amy Albert – sick
Simone Bennett
Augustine Blackwell
Rev. Phyllis Brown - sick
Michael Cetera, AIA – sick
Veta May Clarke
Ben Edwards
Nacala Mitchell
Unella Rhone-Perry
Roosevelt Rose
Gerald President
Jacqueline Welch

Elected Officials and Agency Representatives Present
Hon. Laurie Cumbo
Hon. Jesse Hamilton
Hon. Shirley Patterson
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Brian McLaurin – Hon. Letitia James
Kenya Handy – Hon. Scott Stringer
Kelvin Alexander – Hon. Eric Adams
Jamal Pollard – Hon. Eric Adams

Karen Marcelle – Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara
Pierre Albert – Hon. Karim Camara
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse Hamilton
William Boone – Medgar Evers College
Judge Michael Goldstein
Judge Jenine Edwards

PUBLIC SESSION 1 – 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman, Dwayne Nicholson.
Chairman Nicholson announced, “The Public session would start this meeting in order to allow the public an opportunity to speak about issues time did not allow for at the last meeting.” The time set aside to hear from the public wishing to speak is thirty minutes. Speaking time is limited to three minutes per speaker. The individuals who contacted the Community Board Office prior to noon Tuesday, November 18th, to arrange speaking time, were then called to the microphone.

**Speaker #1 – Alan P. Berger**

First of all, I feel strongly the motion to rescind this resolution at that occurred September meeting should have been brought back to the floor for further discussion. And after sixteen members voted for the motion almost twice as many as those who voted against I think that definitely merited further discussion.

Second, the resolution contains language that is just too ambiguous and not concrete enough and for the community to have advocate control of the development process and final outcome. Phrases such as inclusionary zoning; contextual multi-use development; and increased residential commercial density; are too vague and can be used by developers to get around the spirit of the resolution, and will result in development we don’t need or want. We need more specific language so everyone knows what this community is really asking for.

Third, the community needs more time and opportunity to learn about and have input on the resolution and any future study and any proposed zoning changes. We need more public hearings now. Regarding the density issue, we already are becoming more dense. Over one thousand plus units’ residential units are coming on the market now and over the next year or two in the PLG area. At current averages, this would mean three thousand more people. This is like adding two more Lefferts manors to the neighborhood. We need, to know what the impact will be involving quality of life issues like, traffic, roads, garbage, parking, crowding on subways and buses, and about the impact on infrastructure. Of at least eighty percent of these thousand plus units are at market rate we already know which are area neighborhoods like Williamsburg and Lower East Side Park slope and others. As many residents and businesses will be forced out through increased rent and taxes we need to work to prevent this from happening. So I am advocating a go slow approach to better understanding the impact of the density that is already underway. Work to protect the community. Get more input from the community work to preserve the affordable and rent stabilized we have now, and try to arrive at a consensus around what we would like to see happen in the neighborhood in terms of the future development. This is a critical time in the process of this neighborhood. If we don’t want to go the way of all the other NYC neighborhoods that have lost their character and diversity we need to be aware of what we are doing and be aware of all the possible consequences of our actions. We need to make decisions for the long term on this because we are the only ones who will. The politicians can’t they are under too much political pressure and have more important things to do. And the developers wont because they are only interested in short term profit. So the duty to the neighborhood rests with us. Thank you.

The chairman thanks the speaker and asks that attendees hold their applause until all speakers are finished.

**Speaker #2 – Sandra Skoblar**

I would like to request that CB9 vote to rescind the rezoning resolution and stop the confusion from September 23rd. (Interruption inaudible) Chairman Nicholson requests the speaker hold the microphone more directly in order to be heard.
(Speaker continues) Because the community does not want to experience what happened in Williamsburg. Our politicians are calling for grants, boroughs are not grants they are a collection of communities which people live and work, know their neighbors maybe try to dream for themselves and their children. Our politicians tell us this will create jobs for kids that never had them. Please tell me where that has ever happened. Constructions companies hire people with certified skills in the building trades. They do not hire unskilled labor. And upscale retail stores won’t employ kids who don’t speak standard English. Just look at who prospered and who didn’t in Atlantic City and the Atlantic yards. Not to demonize the people who moved into the high rise, but guess what, they will be in this community but not of this community they won’t be sending their children to local public schools which will continue to deteriorate just look at what happened in Hoboken NJ why are our politicians trying to persuade us to take our greatest asset the land and sell it to the world’s highest bidders the one percenters of China, Canada and Australia wouldn’t it be better to build housing that teachers firemen musicians and cops can afford because they and the working poor are the folks being priced out of Brooklyn by luxury development so I ask why is our political imagination so small so timid NJ has created economic opportunity zones in some blighted areas by dropping the sales tax to three percent. Why aren’t our politicians fighting for that on the Empire Blvd to Brooklyn if we have the political will we can create the means to sustain our socio-economic ability to flourish businesses that maintain our economic diversity sustain our community and give jobs to kids who have never had them isn’t that what CB9 should be recommending? Thank you

**Speaker #3 – Jay Sorid**

Hello, my name is Jay Sorid and I am a property owner in the community. I am speaking on an issue that affects people in the southeast portion of the district that is south of Lefferts and east of approximately Brooklyn Avenue. The issue involves whether or not there is an over saturation of social services in minority neighborhoods. I went around my neighborhood and there is a consensus of almost everyone in my neighborhood that has a problem with the city in terms of the placement over saturating social services. To give you an example there is a charter school on East NY Avenue across the street from that there is a building for homeless and social services and in addition to the charter school a few houses down there is a drug clinic where they treat people who have problems with meth. They want to build 70 units in an 8 story building right next door to 2 minority day care centers with kids in it. The entire community is up in arms. There is a consensus on it. There was a vote in June before I got involved in the community. The official vote was 15 yes, 14 no and 1 abstention. That doesn’t pass yet the community board said it was approved. The community board claims they don’t know how to count an approval yet Pearl Miles has been here for almost 30 years, 15 yes, 14 no, and 1 abstention is not a majority. If you take a look at the roll call which I requested in a FOIL request you will see 15 yes, 15 no, and 1 abstention. In both situations there was not a majority and that public approval is what was necessary is the money that is necessary for a not for profit called Bridge. Approximately 94% of the money is your tax payer dollars. The place that I’m in, the census tract area, and is overwhelmingly minority and I’m asking the chairman Dwayne Nicholson to correct the minutes. It’s very easy to correct the minutes, and to say it doesn’t have community approval. His refusal to correct the minutes because this does not have the community approval... I will tell the Buildings Department this did not have the proper approval. There is a conflict of interest, because of the Housing Committee chair, Laura Imperiale, who is an obstructionist, and who works for a construction company, Tully Construction, which prevents her from voting, and which is a conflict of interest. Check the conflict of interest laws. Also, Pearl consistently denies me the files. Public access demands that I walk in there 10 times and see the files. This is against the charter.
Chairman Nicholson says “Thank you Mr. Sorid”

Speaker #4 – Timothy Thomas

Hello everyone I’m Tim Thomas. I guess I’d like to take a step back from some of the stuff I’ve been saying on my blog, The Q at Parkside. I actually agree with almost everything, Alan Berger had said. The only difference I had is that I believe that we should be moving forward, and have community input, and come together, and we should talk to each other. Right now, I believe we are talking over each other. I’d like to personally offer an olive branch. I actually believe this is why we are experiencing so much displacement and hyper gentrification. This has nothing to do with zoning, because there have not been any changes in zoning. Somebody mentioned that there were 2-3,000 people in the neighborhood. 5 years ago they were about to build a 23 story building on Lincoln Road, and they almost reached they almost reached a financial collapse and they didn’t build that building. But, we did not act quickly enough, and maybe we wouldn’t have that monstrosity. I don’t know how many times we are going to have to vote on this resolution. I’m happy to vote on this until the cows come home; while the cows are out there, they can do whatever they want. 11 years ago, I had the audacity to buy a house in this neighborhood. This was the best house in the neighborhood, I could afford. (Inaudible) I’d like the opportunity to build more affordable housing. I believe the building we’re losing we are losing rent stabilization. These are not zoning issues. These are large companies buying up (Inaudible)

Chairman Nicholson says “Thank you Mr. Thomas”.

Speaker #5 – Suki Cheong

I was going to talk about something different. But all the speakers were (audience shouts out “Please speak louder”. ) So I just thought I would speak on something else. Richard said he thinks there should be more public hearings. I recently got word a town hall meeting is being hosted by the Washington Ave Tenants Organization, Friday, November 21st at 8pm. Borough President Eric Adams will be there, and I’m told, that you can email questions about zoning and affordable housing, if you contact the Washington Avenue Botanic Block Association, they have a website. And I wanted to stress that I agree with AI and that I think there should be more community education, and if we could get more education about zoning, and the process.

Chairman Nicholson says “Thank you, Suki”.

Speaker #6 – Randy Pruitt (no response)

Speaker #6 – Elizabeth Macklin

I live on Lefferts Avenue. I’m mystified for some reason our community board is clinging to a resolution which represents the opposite of everything we wanted. At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden listening session on March 17th, we told them we wanted to downzone. This means build tall on streets with train and bus access. We asked for preservation. We got adjust current zoning designations to conform to prevailing uses and density. This gave City Planning the green light for some streets like the streets in Crown Heights North. I’m sorry in Crown Heights South that is predominately single and 2 family homes, and there is already 1 apartment building on the block. We told them we didn’t want towers or out of context development. Instead Pearl Miles translated that to mean identify areas for inclusionary zoning. Who uses that language? It means find streets where the buildings can be 33 percent denser, taller. We told them we wanted to prevent the
displacement of tenants but create opportunities for affordable housing developments. We have what is affordable too. And open to broad interpretation. And with so called affordable units and gentrifying tenants.

This is just condemning (inaudible). With 93% of our renting neighbors in subsidized housing, with the median household income of our renters at $35,000, and for our homeowners $110,000, very few are going to meet the income requirements of the vast number of affordable housing being built. According to the Mayor’s housing plan, 20% of the affordable units will be built for a household making less than $41,000. More than 20% of affordable housing is being built for people making more than $67,000. We are the most crowded in all of Brooklyn. Our density is 66,000 people per mile. Bed-Stuy comes in second. Park Slope and Carroll Gardens have a population density that is 44% of ours. Just rezoning the first two blocks of Empire Boulevard to R7B, is the transit corridor zoning and would increase the population of our neighborhood by 10%, or more with 11,000 new people. Of course the current resolution is not talking about up zoning in the 2 blocks of Empire. Our current resolution seeks to increase density in and around transit corridors that means Washington, Flatbush, Nostrand, Rogers, Bedford, Ocean, NY. Add Clarkson Avenue put another way, 101 blocks of our neighborhood are on the resolution to be rezoned to increase density. If developers take full advantage, we could become the most crowded community in all of the entire NYC area.

Chairman Nicholson says, “Thank you Ms. Macklin”.

Speaker #7 – Wilma Marshall

My name is Wilma Marshall and I’m a resident of Lefferts Manor for 28 years. I don’t want to see any high rises built on Empire Blvd, I don’t want to see. This will displace many people of color. I think that the resolution needs to be rescinded.

Alicia Boyd interrupts to state, she has served another lawsuit on CB 9. (Speaker #8)

Ms Boyd goes on to say, the papers basically talk about the fact that they cannot limit the communities talking. The open session is open until the community gets finished. It is unthoughtful to deter anybody at a community board meeting from speaking. Open meetings Law requires that the community not have a time limit as far as the open session. Alicia states, “I just want that to be clear”. Ms Boyd says, “They have been served with papers because of their violations of the City Charter, The Constitution, and the Open Meetings Law”. They will be going to the court with us. I’m just making that (Inaudible).

Alicia Boyd continues at the microphone beyond her allotted three minutes. Alicia Boyd continues with, “Now I have a young man. Let him speak. I have his 3 minutes along with any other 3 minutes. And I’m going to tell you his story. The boy says he’s 6 years old. I want you to look at this young man. And I want to you to understand why. I carry on the way that I carry on. I used to be a teacher, kindergarten teacher, 1st grade teacher, elementary teacher, this is my student. This young man has an eviction notice. Yesterday he had the marshals waiting. This is what saved them. This young man has to walk around and be part of the homeless population. That means when these children, 60,000 of our children, who go to the shelters and are put out of their homes who will suffer. You know, you’ve been there. You know what it’s like. To be abused as a child. You know what it’s like. To be sexually molested, victimized, that’s what these children are going to face. They want to move 100,000 people out of this community. 60,000 will be children like him. We have an obligation. My obligation is not to you. I don’t scream and holler for you. I scream and holler for him and all the children that will be without a home. His mother has an eviction notice. Yesterday I called social services. We got her a lawyer. She went for one of those temporary orders. They ignored her. The lawyer called. Someone in the audience called out to help with this matter. Alicia Boyd responded, “We already did that.”
Social services won’t return their calls. Ms. Boyd continues, our elected officials are not responding. But, this is what’s happening to us everywhere in this community. Our children are being placed. They are going into foster homes. They are going and doubling up in other people’s homes. When I asked Eric Adams what are you going (inaudible). I said no. It’s because we are being pushed out. This mother is going to be allowed to sit there with all her stuff and put it into storage. That’s what those storage units are for. Because they knew what they were planning on doing with this community, and they planned it. They planned it. You understand it’s a conservative conscious effort to remove us from this community."

Chairman Nicholson says thank you Ms. Boyd, but your 3 minutes are up.

A few people in the audience shout “go ahead talk.”

Alicia Boyd continues, “They don’t want you to listen. Karim Camara came to me and to my door and said that he was representing people who wanted up zoning on Empire Blvd that lived on Sterling St. Am I right Ken? I want to see your hands raised. All the people who want up zoning in this community please raise your hand. That’s his constituency. Nobody? Who is his constituency? If it’s not us then who is it? It’s the developers. That’s the crookedness in our community. They will not stand here. Do you see nay politicians? They won’t even come and face you. But you vote for them. And you put them in office, again and again and again. But, if your homes on the line, when it’s your children on the line, where are they? They disappear. So, I fight, and I’ll keep on fighting, and keep serving papers. (Inaudible)

They died for us and got lynched for us, and we should do the same for him, because, that’s our future. If we let these children go to these homes, we should be ashamed of ourselves. Because, our ancestors died for us, so that we could live free. So, please do not allow this community to pass any resolution that talks about up zoning any part of this community because high rises are the doom of us. Please we’re fighting and we’re going to keep on fighting. Please, so now you’re saying its 7:30 and it’s the end of the public session.”

Then a few people in the audience state, “We have a right to speak”, then began shouting, “Come on! No! No!” (Chaos). The board members who are MTOPP sympathizers also say “let them speak”, disregarding the existing agenda and process. Then, Marco Poggio, a reporter for the Daily News, who happens to live in the community and support MTOPP, comes to the front of the room in a rage, shouting profanity, and verbally attacking members of the executive committee, and dropping verbal “F” bombs at the chairman of the board.

The Chairman attempts to restore order and the same few people in the audience refuse to cooperate. (Chaos)

NYPD amasses at the back of the room. After approximately 15 minutes or more are lost to lack of cooperation and chaotic outbursts from a few people in the audience which also prevented MEC speakers from making their presentation in their own building, Dean Jones and Dr. Orenstein of MEC offer to forfeit 15 minutes of their scheduled presentation time to let the people in the audience continue to speak.

A few people in the audience shout, “Thank you” to Dean Jones.

Demetrius Lawrence states” Out of respect to Dean Jones, those who are currently up here, will be allowed to speak”

Speaker #9
Good evening everyone, my name is Nancy Rollins. I have lived in this community for 35 years. All of those 35 years I have been actively involved in the quality of life, as president of the block association, member of the 71st precinct council, and member of the coalition of block associations, and the (inaudible). I do not want high rise buildings in our community. I want to preserve and keep the character and integrity of our community, and foremost, the heart and soul which is the people. And we all want you to know, who is going to be for luxury high rise buildings. Affordable for whom? And the answer is none of us are. The promises made by our community board and our local politicians have never materialized. We have been told to let the process wring out. It has not happened in Harlem, in Brooklyn, Williamsburg, BedStuy. We are told to let the process wring out and let the study go on. How did that go, from Harlem to BedStuy to Harlem to Williamsburg to Crown Heights? It didn’t work. Affordable for whom? Wealthy new residents! Up zoning? It is because history has proven it brings wealthy new residents moving in droves to these high rise buildings. Gentrification AKA wealth, is proven to dispossess and displace middle income and low income residents. It has truly traumatized our children. When families are dispossessed and displaced, it is inequitable. Crime will rise. Based on the 20/80 rule and exclusionary zoning, real estate developers must bond a mere 20% affordable housing to residents, and in return receive 30%. This does not allow for low income or middle income (inaudible) in 2013, you are going to see median income at $72,000 (inaudible) you are considered subsided subsidized housing. How many workshops sponsored by our local politicians to help fill out these applications, they were not designed to qualify for this elusive 20% affordability. Don’t let divide and conquer defeat us. It is not white against black, it is not home ownership against renters, and it is about middle and low income. We want to preserve the affordability as we already have it. Remember it was not affordable for Harlem, Williamsburg Bed-Stuy (inaudible). Dr. Maya Angelou said, when someone shows you who they are believe them the first time.

Chairman Nicholson says thank you

**Speaker #10 – Michael Gerstein**

Hello my name is Michael Gerstein, I am a civil court judge and since I heard that there are all kinds of lawsuits going on, I am not allowed to comment on any gentrification issues, because if any of those issues came before me, I would not be allowed to hear the case. I can tell you I live in Flatbush for 35 years, and before I became a judge, I was president of my neighborhood association. I want to talk to you about something totally different for a few minutes. We have a big problem in Brooklyn it’s called, DWI, and in June we started a department that only does DWI cases and I am in charge we have one thousand applications awaiting adjudication. This is driving while intoxicated and we have another approximately one thousand cases of equal weight of people found guilty of driving while intoxicated and they are in various programs some of which last up to a year.

We are going into the highest season, with DWI, between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. We have all the parties, and we get a wide assortment of people with DWI’s, lawyers, bankers, doctors, and just plain old folks. So I’m asking you, if you are going to a party, please think before you go to the party, if I’m drinking, how am I getting home? Am I taking the subway? Am I taking a cab? Am I going with people, where somebody is going to be the driver? Where is the subway? Are you going to be the driver? If you get convicted of driving while intoxicated in addition to having a criminal record because it is a crime you can start off with the fact you are going to have to take programs costing at a minimum several hundred dollars. You have to pay a fine of a minimum of $500.00, court costs of a minimum of $895.00, your insurance is going to go up easily to a couple of thousand dollars, and if that does not convince you, think of your fellow residents and think of the
person who is most likely to get hurt if you’re in an accident with a DWI, and that is yourself. So, please I urge you, Nobody is saying don’t drink and nobody is saying don’t drive. But, please don’t do it together.

Demetrius Lawrence: thank you and I would also take a moment to recognize the Honorable Judge Judy Edwards in the house today

Speaker #11 – Karen Fleming

Hello to the community and board members. I have been living in this community for more than four years now. I am outraged at the treatment that the community is getting from its board. The minutes from the community Board meeting of September 23rd is a shining example of why we are outraged. The minutes are not accurate. I was here for that meeting and when I read the minutes, I had to print them because I could not believe what I was reading online. I printed them out and I said, that is not the meeting I was at. I kept saying to myself, that’s not the meeting I went to. The community board has a legal responsibility to report accurately on what happens in a meeting. Do you all imagine that your community cannot read? That we do not hear? That we do not understand? I don’t understand that. Shame on you. In the minutes of September 23rd meeting, much emphasis was placed on the civil disobedience that occurred. Ladies and gentlemen of the community board you took us there. This is the United States of America imperfect though it may be. It is not a monopoly, a caliphate, the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany. We have the right and the responsibility to engage in civil disobedience with the powers that be. Democracy is not a spectator sport. The process is put in place to protect the community. Community boards are not supposed to use process as a tool to disintegrate the will of the community. Your derelict use of process in citywide advances are an embarrassment. People are watching. Have you no shame? No shame falls upon the heads of the community board who are pastors, and preachers and rabbis, you are called to a higher moral ground than the rest of us. Yet, here you are changing money in the temple. It should be clear by now that the element in the room is not legal. Moreover, since the elements are a whole animal, (inaudible). So, if ever, and as long as you are running the house, as you are now, I urge you all to consult your conscience, if you possess one.

Thank you your time is up

Speaker #12

My name is (inaudible) I live at Stoddard Place. I have been living there for 13 years. I was not prepared to speak today, so I apologize if I am not coherent, but I wanted to. I do not know where I land on some of these issues, but what I do know is that I am a reasonably intelligent person, and I am always baffled when I come to these meetings. Supposed to change to when the meeting is over and there is a change to when you do minutes. There is no transparency. Our local representatives are not even here. The whole meeting nobody is listening to us, and I just feel every time you come in here. I feel like this board is disingenuous, and with that, I don’t feel like you are here to represent us. So, if you are not listening to what I am saying, if you don’t represent us, just say it. Let us know, this relationship between the board and the community is the adversarial relationship that is really is, and we will work accordingly. If you don’t care what we want; if you are not going to listen to what we want; then let’s call it an adversarial relationship. You have your way and it doesn’t match ours. Just say so. You can each one of you just speak up and say what your real agenda is, and we will deal with it. So I just want to say, just call it what it is, and let’s not play this game where you just do what you want anyway. You are going to do what you want anyway.

Thank you very much
You’re going to allow me to speak...thank you very much. I am Patricia Jackson, President of the Carroll Street Block Association. Also, I am the proud member of the Crown Heights Tenant Union, O.K., and there is something else I wanted to say...I can’t think of it right now... but that’s neither here nor there. The problem is what is happening around here. First of all, these developers and these politicians are in bed together. OK, remember, when this election comes, this is something to vote about. OK. I am watching my back. We have to get them out. You know I keep stuff in my mind. There was a guy named Jesus Christ, and he had 12 disciples, right, and one of them betrayed him, right, for 30 pieces of silver, and they turned on Jesus Christ, there are not enough words to say, but they turned on him, anyway what happened was, this Judas guy right, betrayed him, Jesus Christ, you know for thirty pieces of silver, not gold but silver, so, dig this, I don’t know what’s your problem.

Thank you

PUBLIC SESSION II

Representatives from Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York will discuss the status of the College’s Library Reconstruction Project

Good Evening, I am rarely speechless, but tonight... They say information is power. I am the Chief librarian here at Medgar Evers College, and I would like to speak to you tonight to tell you about the services that are available in our new library. The library is open to the community as well as our students. A lot of people are saying well I’m... if you have sons or daughters or husbands, or wives or co-habitants, or are students here this space is open to them as well. This space is really built for not just the 21st century, but built for the 22nd century. It’s a beautiful space. If you have not seen it, you probably heard the construction the last two years, and you might even have even been annoyed by the construction. But it was money less than time variables kept. So, I just wanted to spend a couple of minutes and tell you what we have available and our students, available to members of the community, and to let you know that our library is open until 11:00 at night. Most public libraries are not. So, let me quickly go through this, and if there are any questions, I would be happy to answer your questions as well. But, I do thank you for welcoming me and I wish everyone good cheer.

So, the library, usually moving you to the (inaudible). We do offer on campus reference services, on campus services and most importantly, access to the computers, which then gives you access to several hundred databases which then gives you entre to thousands of full text full image databases, journals and they are available to you as they are to our students. We also, of course, allow people to use our book collection. So, while borrowing privileges are not permitted unless you are affiliated with the college system. If you come in you can read. We have a wonderful children’s collection. So, if there are caretakers who want to bring children into the library, although we are a traditional academic library, geared to the curriculum of the students here, we would be delighted of course, if you are caretaking and want to stay with your child, and would like children’s books, there is space for you here.

This library is brand new, but it has the same DNA, as the same leading edge library in the system, as I like to say. That is that the information that we carry, is for everybody. The knowledge is about democracy, as you seek tonight. Clearly, what we like to offer in our library is also part of that message of democracy. As you leave tonight, which may probably be around 11, you can see our library. It actually has some art work in it now. But, it really does focus on the students. It is the best kept advanced library in all of the CUNY system. So
you are not schlepping or going to Brooklyn College. You are not going to any of the other schools in the neighborhood. This is a neighborhood resource for you as well. We do offer training for the public. We offer a generous amount of technology training. If you are a student or know somebody who is a student please understand that they are in very good hands. But sometimes we have don’t know what a question is and we have to ask in order to find it. One of the goals of the library is to help you to be able to reach that internal point where you can then become a knowledgeable person. So we really appreciate our students interacting with content. There are research spaces for faculty. Just to let you know if you are thinking or planning to come to Medgar Evers College and study.

The library offers a laptop loaner program and standard services; we have a growing recreational reading collection, music collection. We have as many eBooks as we do regular books which tends to be the trend. We have over 200 interdisciplinary databases. On any typical week, we’ll see about 2100 students. Now, there are only about 6500 students who are here. A lot of them are visiting. We answer about 2000 reference and research questions, questions related to work, or issues related to technology. When you come to the reference library, and you are a member of the community, no one is going to ask to see your ID. We are not asking to see if you are a member student. If you are in New York you are family. We also have a lot of internal partnerships and we are working on a lot of other programs as well. And that sort of ends the presentation. Just to let you know, we truly believe this college stands for knowledge and advancement of human civilization and if we can partner with anyone here and anyone here has the right to do so, and I will end with that right here and answer any questions.

Questions and Answers:

What are the hours of the library? Response: Monday through Thursday we are open from 8:00 AM in the morning until 11:00 PM at night. And the moment we open, there are (inaudible). That is the beautiful thing about us. This was not wasted money at all. No wasted time or money on this project. On Fridays we are open. We are open 7 days a week. So if you can’t come during the week, we are open on the weekend. Typically we are open 10:00 AM – 6 PM.

Can I go to the desk and get someone to help me with all of the technology in the library? Response: Absolutely, you are our bosses. We are not just saying that. We try are doing our job if we create a more informed student. It helps with retention. It helps with success. It helps with what you bring to the table. Not as much as what you bring to the table at work but, what you bring to your home table. How you care and help people who are the closest to you.

What age are you going to limit to come into the library unattended? Response: If you are en utero you may not come into the library unattended (smile). After that, if you come in with a parent, that would most certainly help, after that, we have to remember, that we are a college library, not a public library focused on programs for children and things like that. Our students have to come first. They have paid for the services. But that does not deny anyone access from coming in and asking questions, browse our collection or anything like that.

When the community comes in is there a time or people are waiting, is there a time? Response: No, there is no time. The only thing you have to do though is be respectful that if a student is waiting, Because like I said, they have paid with their tuition dollars for library access and the members of the community be respectful and give your time back to the student.
How many computers do you have? Response: I don’t think you can see from this picture here. But, I believe we have 150 terminals on three floors.

Do you have Wi-Fi? Response: Yes, if you come into the library, you should be able to get on.

If you want to come in and borrow a book can you do that? Response: You cannot borrow our materials. If you want to come in and browse, sit and spend the whole day, but we do not lend the materials. If you come in and you have some technology like a laptop, or iPad and want to work wireless you want to use the eBooks that is something you can do as well.

Thank you.

Dean Jones, Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York will inform the community about changes at the College and the new programs geared towards the community.

Chairman Nicholson introduced Medgar Evers’ Dean Jones who will be informing the community about changes in the college and new programs geared towards the community.

Dean Jones said, I want to start off by thanking our Chief at Medgar Evers College, the President of our college. We are very proud of Rudy Crew, and our library is something we have been waiting for. Please use our library. We are giving tours of the library as well so please, make time to take a tour it is an extraordinary place. As you know across the street, there is an extraordinary facility as well, with over 250 million dollars’ worth of biomedical technology. It has been a treasure to our student who are here in technology and health areas. I came tonight to give you an update in terms of some of the things we are doing at the college.

As many of you know during the past spring, we had our annual health day contributing our students. We are going to have this again this year. It is going to be an annual event. During the course of the summer we had brought back Jazzy Jazz. Dr. Crew was instrumental in forming that. I don’t know if you know his father was a musician, and was very committed to know that our children are close to jazz as well. We also last year, during in Spring, we had the community education program, it provided Tai Chi, swimming classes, ACE computer classes, for free for the community. We will do that again in the spring. In the summer, we are also, I brought some materials here, from our Adult continuing education program they are offering an extensive array of programs, I mentioned Tai Chi, creative writing, business writing, electronic technician training, life skills, swimming, piano, and number of other classes will be offered during the course of this year. The community, especially Community Board 9, has a reduced rate. You have a student rate. Again, Dr. Crew has been working on making sure that things are affordable for our community residents. We want to encourage you to use our facilities as much as you can.

When community board 9 came to us and said they wanted to have meetings here, we were committed to making sure you had that and whether or not we agree or not we can always disagree and agree with passion. The time is long and these are an expression of community. We may not all understand each other but we have to listen to each other. Again, we want to thank all of you for your contribution to the college. This is your college.

Dean Jones restated a question from the audience. The question was will we have open swim separate from the continuing Ed because there were insurance issues? There are some insurance issues. We are very aware. That is one of the reasons we are asking you to sign up for the adult continuing education program. If you are
a member of that program and registered, then you are under our insurance. So, you don’t have to worry about liability. So that is why we have asked you to register.

When will we have our distinguished lecturer series? Response: We have already started. One of the things that we have done is we have a electronic mailing that goes out to some of the community organizations so before you please leave your email with us. So each month there will be a lecturer and you will be notified. We just had an ambassador come and speak with us several weeks ago, each month there will be a lecture series. That is a very good question. And you will be notified.

I have two questions. Is Medgar Evers going to do something as far as educating the community on this very important hot topic “gentrification? And second question is that I notice there are certain community members are allowed to use the facilities and I wanted to know if that was available to all community members or only for a select few? Response: I will answer the second question first. When a community member requests use of the facility, obviously, they have to go through a process. As you know everyone wants to use Medgar Evers College and lot a people are asking and so we are almost always utilizing just as long as we have availability. We probably have about 200 graduations in the course of our year, public schools middle schools, and high schools. It can get to be a very compacted situation. Plus we are increasing our student body to over 7000 students. So, our space is very limited, so we look, and obviously we consider all requests. That is the answer to your second question.

The answer to your first question, our public administration department is one of the departments in our school assigned to technology. They look at all the issues and I am sure that the library has a series, they have areas of focus that they look at each year and each month. Our students and we have some of our students in the audience, who are interns, who look at issues such as gentrification. They look at issues, they look at stop and frisk. They look at a number of issues that are germane to our community. So I am sure we will be addressing that obviously, because that is an issue that is dear to your heart. Make sure that you see the librarian just to get a sense and make sure that you see the chairperson for that academic department to specifically look into addressing that issue.

We love you and we hope you love our college. It is our pleasure to serve you and thank you for your time. Thank you Community Board officers for making us a part of your meeting.

Chairman Nicholson extends a special thank you to Dean Jones

A representative from the 71 Precinct will discuss the “Explorers’ Program”

Chairman Nicholson said that the 71st Precinct Explorers Club was not able to attend tonight. This will conclude our public session. We will move now to the business session. Please call the roll. 38 members present. We have a quorum.

Minutes of the October 28 Meeting

We will begin with the minutes for the October 28 meeting minutes. Is there a motion on the floor? The Motion received. There is a second. All those in favor say aye. (Aye sounds from the board). Any nays? No. Any abstentions? No. The motion carries.

Minutes of the November 3 Meeting

**District Managers Report**

District Manager Pearl Miles made the following announcements:

- Kings County Hospital Education Forum on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30pm, Kings County Hospital Center Auditorium, Building P, Second Floor, 451 Clarkson Avenue.

- Free forum at Brooklyn Law School on Wednesday, November 19th There is a group of Pro Bono lawyers who are interested in helping small businesses who need legal help. They also offer a translation service. For all small businesses, 350 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn.

Thank You Pearl

**Treasurer’s Report**

Diana Richardson, Community Board 9 Treasurer, presents fiscal year 2014 annual budget. The budget was emailed to all community board members this afternoon. Diana apologized for the short notice. The budget is placed on the CB 9 website for all of the community to view. Since there have been no hard copies disseminated, Diana gave a soft overview of the numbers spent and how the budget was comprised. In addition, if anyone has questions, you can look at the documents online, or come into the office. If there are further questions regarding this budget, they can be addressed during the public session of the December community board meeting. A brief history was offered.

In November 2013, the community board experienced the untimely death of our then treasurer, Carl Morgan. At that time the treasurers’ position became vacant. Diana Richardson was elected Treasurer in the Spring. In June, the semi-annual fiscal report was accepted by the board. Now, we are doing the entire year budget for the board. Diana breaks down the budget into three parts and explains all of the details now available on line. When viewing the numbers for May and June in the budget, note that an extraordinary amount of money this year had to be allocated for repairs to the office due to water damage from leaks in the ceiling. There was damage to ceilings, carpeting, and wiring requiring replacement.

Diana Richardson, Treasurer, Community Board 9, stated that the board records and budget are in exceptional condition – PWIO, which means paper work in order. Everything is in order. If anyone has any questions, Diana Richardson stated she is more than happy to answer the questions for them.

Do you pay rent? Response: We do pay rent. We have a 10 year lease on our property.

How much flexibility do we have to spend the difference between what we spend and what we are allotted? Any? Can we spend it on a newsletter...?? Response: Minimum. As for the newsletter would be an allocation from Mathieu Eugene through Friends of CB9.

Does Community Board 9 apply for discretionary funds from the elected officials? Response: Yes, we do. That could possibly cover the expenses for computers and newsletters? Response: Yes, We will be looking for
funding from all of our local politicians in the immediate area this budget cycle to help with beautification and communication projects in our community.

Jacob Goldstein: Just a note about budgets it’s really important. Let’s stick within the lines of your budget. You cannot use dollars for one thing and spend them on something else. That is the fastest way to get into trouble. So everyone has to understand that. That is how a budget functions in the government, city, state, and federal. In some areas it is tighter than others. And you have to be very careful when you do those things. Don’t mix and match funds across lines, and just say let’s just take a piece out of this. What can work is you can move the monies with permission. With permission
Response: Diana Richardson thanks Jacob Goldstein for that point of clarification.

Inaudible question. Response: Full Time. We cannot discuss that here, but we are looking at our by-laws committee adding a personnel committee where that can be addressed. Thank you so much.

By Law Committee – Warren Berke

Hello I am Warren Berke as you know from the economic development committee. I want to talk about the By-Law committee. The By-Law committee is a temporary group, which I would hope will be in existence for two months, hopefully. The important thing is the following: we sent an email out to every board member about two weeks ago, and December first is the due date when I need your input. What we would like to see on the By-Laws and what you would like taken out of the By-Laws, etcetera. Then we will get together and take a look at it. We will have our By-Laws, the results of this, and other Brooklyn community board By-Laws. Probably most favorable are the By-Laws for Brooklyn community board 2, which I am not recommending, but saying it is a good one to review. We will begin the process with a lot more research. We look forward to everyone’s participation. Just e-mail me your comments on the By-Laws. You are invited to our first meeting on Dec. 2nd Thank you

Transportation Committee

Simone Bennett is not here but a member from the Transportation Committee, (inaudible) the next meeting is December 7 everyone is invited to at the community board office at 7 pm. This is not on the website. The Lefferts Garden Food Coop is opening on Empire Blvd by Nostrand Avenue. You can become a coop member for $100.00. There is a sliding scale available to go as low as $5.00. There is an open house this Sunday. thank you and don’t forget to Shop Local

Jesse Hamilton?

My name is (inaudible) representing, Park Slope, Gowanus, Flatbush, and East Flatbush. I am trying to talk to other senators to find out about affordable housing and the 80/20 rule, and what is affordable rent. (Inaudible) For taxation purposes….our elected officials….come to you...

Economic Development Committee – Shop Local CB9

My name is Pia Raymond. I hope I can give you a heads up on Shop Local CB9. This is an initiative we are rolling out this holiday season, and that is because we see that many of us have been in the community for a long time and many of the merchants have been here for a long time as well and many need the support to help them sustain themselves and their business. We have many new businesses coming into the community as
well. So we are asking that the community really make a concerted effort to SHOP LOCAL CB9 this holiday season and we are going to have a Small Business Saturday on November 29th, and go through the holiday season to December 31st. So we ask that you particularly go through the corridor on Flatbush Avenue, and Utica Avenue, which involves the Utica Avenue Merchants Association and the offices of Council member, Darlene Mealy, and also The Merchants Association of Crown Heights which is headed by Richard Hurley. We are really asking that merchants give special promotions and discounts particularly on Saturday, November 29th, Saturday and Sunday December 13th and 14th. The participating merchants will show signage in their store windows that will indicate what their specials will be, and balloons will be outside the businesses on those dates.

We will be posting a listing of the merchants and what they are offering on the website of the various merchant associations as the time draws closer. We would really like to see the community out for SHOP LOCAL CB9. We are also asking for community artists who would like to showcase their work and would like to partner with a merchant who is willing to host you, please let us know as well. We have a lot of talent in this community, and we are going to use this as a platform to get to know each other, and for other communities to come and see what we have here and shop, and keep our money and revenue within our area as well as we seek sustainability. We need volunteers from the community for those three days in particular. We need people for different things from people on those particular days from giving out balloons and things they may need outside of their businesses. If you would like to volunteer reach out to Warren or the community board office and leave your contact information. Thank you.

Warren says, I just want to say Pia is doing just a phenomenal job, and thank you. I also want to say we need money, and I have not contacted the elected officials. We do have an event sponsor, but we do need more money. The event sponsor is P&S Financial Services. They are check cashing places there are about three or four of them in our area. They have sponsored $4,000.00, which is phenomenal. So, if any elected officials want to kick in $500.00, it is fine with us. The other thing is volunteers, we are going to have some great things on the street to attract people and hopefully we will get some money for that. We are interested in generating foot traffic for our merchants. It is everybody’s job in this room to go to shop with your local merchants.

Chairman Nicholson announces Warren needs 8 more volunteers, and asks that the community support our local merchants, contact Warren and volunteer for Shop Local CB9.

Health and Human Services Committee – Josette Coicou-Brioche

Good Evening, I just want to say a session on Ebola Preparedness, we are hoping also to have one of the speakers from the session at some point come to make a presentation to the community board. The session will be held in the auditorium.

Chairman Nicholson recognizes the elected officials and/or their representatives in attendance: Representative for Honorable Eric Adams, Mr. Mark Pollard, is present and states, “I want to compliment you and the board on your display of democracy. I think democracy is important.” Coordinator for external affairs shares the emergency contact card for the refrigerator, and Brooklyn events information sheets and a variety of helpful tips and telephone contact numbers.

Hon. Laurie Cumbo
Thank you, good evening everyone. I want to thank community board 9. We will begin the discretionary fund process in January. So, the important part now is to strategize and think about exactly who and what you want the funding for; who in the community it is this going to impact; how it is going to bring something beneficial into the community; make sure you have all of that worked out. So, please let that definitely be known. I am open to providing discretionary funding. I want to add one of the things that is going on is what is happening to Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, as many of you may or may not know, there are potentially 700 units of affordable housing that are being pushed into market rate housing. It is owned by a development company called Abaa? Realty, and there is going to be a vote on the 25th of November at City Hall in reference to a project they want to do in Astoria, Queens. So, we are trying to link the future and the fate of this particular project in our district with that project that will be taking place. This is something I have been working very hard on, and I have been working with the administration on, because to lose 700 units of affordable housing in Crown Heights, would be a serious blow and very detrimental to our community.

Another thing, I wanted to thank all of you that came out to the several workshops in regards to the (inaudible) right across the street from here. I really want to thank you there were two series and as you know, the economic development corporation, as well as the developers are working feverishly to incorporate those ideas that came out of that particular (inaudible) I also want to let you know that yesterday we had the job fair if you will. They are getting 3000 jobs available at the Navy Yard, as a result of a multi-million dollar investment by the city in the Navy Yard. They are going to be primarily, factory, industry, entrepreneurial, technology, and all of these different professions that we really want to get our youth prepared for as well as our community properly trained. We have a partnership with Medgar Evers College, and the Navy Yard, to get the students that are here currently, over there to make sure there is a campus at the Navy Yard, and also St Josephs, they are also preparing their students for that investment that the administration has made at the Navy Yard. In addition to that, I want to let you know we heard from many of you about the need for a legal clinic. So, if your landlord is suing you in landlord-tenant court or you have a question about repairs, rent stabilization, over charges, or other rental problems, we are going to be having the second Thursday of the month, in our district office from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, at 1 Hanson Place. You can call for legal consultation. It is the second Thursday of the month. You should make an appointment because you have a lot of people who will utilize this.

The next one is FREE immigration services. We are offering on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the office at 1 Hanson Place. This will be every Tuesday. The other one is FREE Civil Legal Services coming to your neighborhood. This is going to be a mobile van. This is going to be at 1700 Bedford Ave. November 21st, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. It is going to be with New York Legal Assistance Group. It is going to be on housing, public benefits, disability benefits, healthcare, identity theft, consumer credit, immigration, divorce custody, employment and so much more. Please come out for that.

Finally, the last one, and all the flyers are here, there will be a Tenants Forum, on Wednesday, November 19th 2014 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at St Joseph’s College, at St Angela’s Hall, 241 Waverly Ave. So this is for anyone who has issues pertaining to housing code violations, housing court, rent protection for seniors and disabled persons, NYCHA, section 8; if you have issues with bedbugs (there is a huge bedbug infestation all around New York). This is an issue if you have any questions about it don’t feel embarrassed. Please don’t feel this is something you have to keep to yourself. Please come out with it, discrimination issues and many more. These are the areas I have focused on in the district right now. So, that is it for me right now. Thank You.

Representative from Darlene Mealy’s Office
I think this meeting has gone a long ways. The last couple of meeting we have seen a lot of clashing and a lot of controversy. But this tonight, I think we did a really good job and that is thanks to everybody here, especially the board. They started out on the right note but they gave the public session at the beginning. Everybody did get a chance to speak. So I think we have come a long way and we do have a ways to go. We have to agree to disagree and keep the dialog going. We have a lot of issues here. So thanks to see everybody really engaged. It is very, very, important. A couple of things that are happening in terms of the city. It is now heat season, you can apply for HEAP. So you don’t run into any problems with your utilities HEAP is a good resource. I want to say something also about tonight’s meeting. Ms. Boyd got up and the first thing she did was have a young man in front of her, who had issues, that is called eviction. We have that issue in our office very often. What I did was, when she was speaking, I went to the back and I spoke to the mother and found that it was not our office but Council Member Mathieu Eugene, this who her representative is, and told her we spoke together, showed her how to follow how we have done this in the past. We can actually help someone going through an eviction within even 12 hours. Hopefully we can stay person off of an eviction. So, if you know anyone going through an eviction, even within 24 hours, you can send them to their own city council office and we send them to a workshop for a one shot deal. They want to help people who cannot pay their rent moving forward, and it is a lot easier than placing someone in a shelter due to eviction. This is a win win for all.

It is important to honor our veterans, there are flyers for events honoring our veterans in Crown Heights. Christmas tree lighting on December 16th at St Mathews at Eastern Parkway and Utica. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and thank you.

Chairman’s Report

- Chairman read a reminder from the FDNY to change your batteries in your smoke detectors
- Volunteers are needed for a mapping project of liquor licenses in the district. Contact Chairman Nicholson or Executive committee with your contact information to volunteer.
- NYC Transit representatives at BBH for reduced fare MetroCard on Wed Nov 19th from 12-3pm.
- East Brooklyn conference at BBH on Fri Nov 21st from 6-9pm.
- Toy Drive at BBH from Wed Nov 26 to Mon Dec 8th. Accepting new unwrapped toys for ages 3-10.
- Free Gospel concert at Brooklyn College on Sunday Nov 30th in Brooklyn College’s Walt Whitman Auditorium beginning at 4pm.
- In an effort to get our youth involved, the BP is encouraging young people to his meeting on Thursday, November 20th, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM, in the Al Vann Library at Boys and Girls High School in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Students aged sixteen and over can come and learn about how they can join a community board in the coming year.
- Councilwoman Cumbo wants to remind you about the job fair tomorrow online at

My name is Pierre Albert (inaudible)

Adjournment

Chairman Nicholson, thank you so much for coming. We have a motion on the floor to adjourn from Ada Terry and we have second to that motion from Warren Berke. Ok, thank you very much and good night everyone.
Respectfully submitted
Rosemarie Perry
Secretary
February 9, 2015