

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2013  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 CAFETERIA  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, 11225**

**Members Present**

Pastor Robert Ambrose  
Fred Baptiste  
Simone Bennett  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Warren Phillip Berke  
Aldith Clarke  
Veta May Clarke  
Josette Coicou-Brioche  
Shirley Dor  
Edmund Fanning  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Theopia Green  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Ruby Hodge  
Myra Holmes

**Members Present**

Brenda Hutto-Lucas  
Laura Imperiale  
Daniel Igvoidstad  
Maurice Jean-Baptiste  
Demetrius Lawrence  
Samuel Marmulzsteyn  
Frank Nicholas  
Dwayne Nicholson  
Rosemarie Perry  
Diana Richardson  
Roosevelt Rose  
Brenda Scott  
Rabbi Joseph Spielman  
Yvonne Straker  
Timothy Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch  
Evelyn Williams

**Members Absent**

Amy Albert – sick baby  
Stuart Balberg  
Michael Cetera, A.I.A.  
Flavia Francis  
Charlene Gayle  
Cedieu Gouin  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Aron Hershkop  
Jacqueline Love  
Carl Morgan  
Gerald President  
Karlene Robinson  
Mary Rollerson-Blackett  
Chanina Sperlin  
Victoria St. Clair

**Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present**

Hon. Mathieu Eugene  
Hon. Renee Collymore  
Hon. Walter Mosley  
Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke  
Boris Noble – Hon. Marty Markowitz  
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara

Debra LeSane – Kings County Hospital  
Val Henry – Downstate Medical Center  
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy  
William Boone – Medgar Evers College  
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Flatbush Congested Corridor Project – Greg Haas, Department of Transportation**

Mr. Haas informed that Flatbush Avenue between Empire Boulevard and the Junction the lanes are 54 feet wide. It is not wide enough for two lanes and parking on both sides. When making right turns cars will end up into the left lane. The proposal is to have one travel lane while the extra lane will have parking.

At Lincoln Road there is a problem. There will be some changes instituted to address these problems. Among the changes is that the area at the gas station will be extended; markings will be installed to indicate the extended areas. During morning rush hour there will be signage stipulating no parking, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Afternoon rush hour, the south bound traffic is not as bad. It will have standing regulations from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Going south there will be one travel lane and one parking lane; all the left lanes will be out of the way. There is a request for both Rutland Road and Hawthorne Street that cannot be done right away, maybe next year.

#### **Questions and Answers:**

**Ruby Hodge:** For buses traveling on Flatbush Avenue and trucks making deliveries, did you look at that area? Are you going to change the sidewalk?" **Answer:** No, it would make the area smaller if we do that.

**Community Resident:** What about parking? **Answer:** We will talk to the police about parking.

Mr. Haas informed that a public meeting on the project will be held on Monday, September 30, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., at Erasmus Hall High School.

Rabbi Goldstein thanked Mr. Haas for his presentation.

#### **Utica Avenue Bus Priority Study – Department of Transportation – Eric Beaton**

Mr. Beaton said that a traffic study was done of the morning and evening traffic movements. Problems on Utica Avenue include speeding, especially off-peak hours; and parking for customers – the merchants would like some of the bus lanes taken away. We would like to improve overall safety on this stretch of roadway; slowing down traffic; allowing the buses to move more freely; allowing for parking. The benefits of these changes include a reduction in speeding and maintaining parking.

#### **Questions and answers:**

**Chairman Goldstein:** Will there be left hand signals where you have the left turn bays? If you do not have a left turn signal there will be accidents. Someone will try to jump the light, we will have serious problems.  
**Answer:** We will look into it.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Beaton for his presentation.

#### **Councilmember Mathieu Eugene**

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene began by commending each one for being present at the monthly meeting. The Council member said that it was an honor and a privilege to serve the community. He thanked members for taking an active role in getting things done. One person cannot do it. It takes a team, all of us to do so. He pledged to work hard. He knows that one concern was guns. Last Saturday he hosted a guns buyback program and collected sixty-nine guns.

The Council member said that we needed vocational schools for our children, not all of them will go to college. He said he was partnering with Erasmus Hall High School to start a program for children who would like to attend vocational school instead of college.

Councilmember Eugene said that PS 92 Park cost three million dollars; now the children have a nice place to play. The next park to be done is Wingate Park. Wingate Park will become state of the art when it is completed. All this is important because our children do not have backyards to play, the parks are their backyards.

The Councilmember pledged to continue to work for his district and asked the community to support him in getting things done.

**Ms. Meredith Barber, Director of Institutional Advancement and Mr. Al Thompson, Director of Woodfield Cottage Secure Detention, will introduce Leake & Watts Services, Inc. to the community. The agency will be operating the Limited Secure Placement (LSP) program for 20 adjudicated youth who have been placed in the custody of the Administration of Children's Services at 1125 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225, within Community District 9.**

Mr. Leslie Watts introduced himself to the community. He informed that Leake & Watts Services is a not-for-profit organization, serving communities for one hundred years.

The program that will be opened on 1125 Carroll Street, is a "Close to Home" serving boys, between the ages of twelve and eighteen years of age. The program will use the Missouri model and families will also be incorporated in the running of the program. The youth in the program will receive educational credits from the New York City Department of Education. They will also have mental health services, where they will receive therapy.

There will be several job opportunities, two job fairs have been held. There are 32 positions available, for applications contact the website. The program will open in late winter 2013; once the program is opened the community will be notified.

**Peter Beitchman, DSW, Chief Executive Officer, The Bridge, will present the agency's plan to develop affordable housing for low-income families from the community; and men and women recovering from a mental health condition, who can live successfully in the community with minimal support services. The identified site includes vacant lots at 829 Maple Street and 918 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn, within Community District 9.**

Ms. Andrea Harnett-Robinson, consultant with The Bridge, introduced the agency. Ms. Harnett said The Bridge is entering its 60<sup>th</sup> year as one of the city's premier human service agencies. She spoke with the District Manager, Pearl Miles regarding developing the property located at 829 Maple Street. She also spoke with Denise Mann and the M.U.S.T. Block Association. The plans were gone into in great detail and they were looking forward to working with the greater community. Material about the project were on the table, please pick up a package.

Peter Beitchman, DSW, Chief Executive Officer, said he has been with The Bridge for over thirty years. They work with over two thousand men and women in Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Manhattan. They are proud that The Bridge offers an array of services under one roof providing jobs and healthcare. Tonight what they are bringing to the community is an affordable housing program with New York State. It is a mixed-use building, it is for people who have advanced significantly in their recovery from a serious mental health condition and have a proven track record of stability in the community.

The building will have fifty-one studio apartments for supportive housing clients and thirteen affordable two bedroom apartments for families from the community. All amenities and facilities in the building will be

shared by all residents. This includes twenty-four hour front desk coverage, a community room for social events, computer room and laundry facilities. There will also be an additional staff of Resident Associates who will provide information and referrals to any services that residents need.

The newly constructed building will be ADA compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act), with two elevators. There will also be a large community garden on the New York Avenue side that will be available for all residents and members of the community. The Bridge self-manages the building with a full-time superintendent and a handyman.

The M.U.S.T. Block Association is asking for changes to the entrance and the architect is looking into it. Once the building is constructed it fits very well into the neighborhood. Residents of Community District 9 will have priority to live in the building. There will be jobs available; the information will be posted with the Community Board and other organizations in the community. For each program there is a Community Advisory Board; the CAB will include people from different facets of the community.

### **Questions and Answers:**

**Edmund Fanning:** "You are reconsidering what to do, but what is it that you are doing?" **Peter Beitchman:** The building is an eight story building with an entrance on Maple Street and a garden on the East New York Avenue side. The Block Association was concerned about the height of the building, to reduce the height and to move the entrance to the East New York Avenue side instead of the Maple Street side. The architect has already modified some of the plans; he has the top floors set back so that it will not be seen from the Maple Street side.

**Community Resident:** We want to stop the project; we don't want it in our community. **Answer:** I said a couple of times this project is as of right. I think the reasons why we are here is to create a partnership.

**Ms. Best:** There are three things that were said tonight that was not said before. **Answer:** The folks have serious illnesses; they have advanced and are now able to live with other families in the building from the community.

**Community Resident:** The building is next to my house, I have two young children who will be playing outside.

**Denise Mann,** president of the M.U.S.T. Block Association spoke on behalf of the organization. Denise Mann informed that the Bridge bought a parcel of land on Maple Street. We first heard about the project two weeks ago. We were annoyed that this organization came to destroy our quality of life. The Bridge didn't care whether we like it or not. These are schizophrenic people. Your building will have a negative impact on the block. The Bridge is an elephant in the community. Copies of signatures will be sent to our public officials, State Senator Eric Adams, Assemblyman Karim Camara and Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

**Peter Beitchman:** I just want to respond to what Denise said, how we try to pawn off the situation by equating it with diabetes. There is a strong semblance between the two. The fact of the matter is if patients with diabetes take their medication they will be able to manage their illness, they can remain productive. It is the same with people with mental illness. The Bridge has worked with thousands of people since 1964. The reason why you don't know about The Bridge is that you have never seen anything about them in the news.

Denise Mann submitted her remarks for the Board's files.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Beitchman and Ms. Andrea Harnett-Robinson for their presentation and for bringing the project before the Community Board and the community.

**Ms. Lisa Hardy, Assistant Executive Director of Programs, Evelyn Douglin Center for Serving People in Need, Inc., will present the agency's plans to develop a community residence at 899 Montgomery Street, Apartment 4M, Brooklyn, NY 11213, within Community District 9, for four (4) developmentally disabled persons.**

Lisa Hardy introduced the speaker, Michelle Castro. Ms. Castro informed the Evelyn Douglin Center was established in 1996; they manage other programs throughout the City; similar programs are located in other areas of Brooklyn.

Ms. Castro said that four developmentally disabled women will reside in apartment 4M, a two bedroom apartment at 899 Montgomery Street. The Evelyn Douglin Center will provide the residents with one hundred percent support services, twenty-four hours a day. Living in this environment will give the four women the opportunity to live in Brooklyn as well as provide them with easier access to their families and will help them to strengthen their bonds with their families and the community. For further information contact them at (718) 965-1998 Ext. 181.

#### **Questions and Answers:**

**Theopia Green:** Is this just one apartment with four residents? Where is this building? **Answer:** Montgomery Street on the corner of Schenectady Avenue. **Question:** Will they be transitioning from that building? **Answer:** No, it is their home.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Castro for her presentation. This is not the first time the Evelyn Douglin Center has presented on of their programs in this community.

#### **Consider the SLA applications from the following businesses:**

**Dina Anderson – Soulful Bistro, Restaurant, located at 963 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225 – application for a Wine and Beer only License; as well as a licensed outdoor area for a Sidewalk Café.**

Ms. Dina Anderson, owner of Soulful Bistro, explained that the restaurant will serve a fusion cuisine in a casual atmosphere with a selection of champagne, wine and beer. The entertainment and music will be live jazz on Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant will occupy the ground floor the sidewalk space will accommodate four to six tables. The hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and on Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM. The restaurant will be closed on Sundays and Mondays. The anticipated date for opening of the restaurant is in 30 days. Occupancy is for 70 persons. The sidewalk café will be added in the summer. Ms. Anderson hopes the community will vote in favor of the business.

**Geri Ford, Brooklyn Rick's Café (Crave Bar) 429 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225, application for a Liquor, Wine and Beer License.**

The owner of Rick's Café, Geri Ford, informed that she will operate under the name of Rick's Café. There will be a dining area with light music. Hours of operation are 12 noon to 3:00 a.m. seven days a week. Ricky Myers, co-owner, informed that he has been living in the community all his life; he will be involved in the security aspect of the business. He has spoken to the block association. He is also aware that there have been problems prior in the past; however he is there to make a difference. The business can provide jobs for people

in the community, as well as provide meals for people who don't want to cook. Denzel Haynes said he would like the community to give them a chance.

**Patrick Smith, The Buzz, Bar and Nightclub, located at 103 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11225 – application for renewal of Liquor, Wine and Beer license.**

Mr. Patrick Smith, owner, informed that The Buzz nightclub has been in operation for seventeen years. The nightclub is managed by Mr. Wallace Descartes. The hours of operation are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. The space is approximately 5,600 square feet. Finger food is served; the kitchen is presently undergoing renovations.

**Report from the Public Safety Committee**

**Soulful Bistro** - Ms. Rosemarie Perry, committee chairperson, reported that the committee was impressed with Anderson's presentation regarding her restaurant business, the menu, etc. The committee expressed concern with the sidewalk café, whether or not it would fit into guidelines for a sidewalk café; if tables and chairs will be a sidewalk obstruction, or not.

Ms. Anderson said that just last week she learned about the necessary things that were needed to establish a sidewalk café, such as the plans, etc. She is withdrawing the sidewalk café portion and would like to bring it back after putting things in place.

**Brooklyn Rick's Café** - Ms. Perry reported that the committee's concern for this establishment is that there is no permit for a kitchen on the premises. The committee would also like to see the Fire Department's approval. At the meeting with the Public Safety Committee, Ms. Ford was asked to present the necessary documents at the meeting tonight concerning the building permits as well as the fire inspection report. That documentation was not provided. The committee's recommendation is to deny approval of the application for a Liquor, Wine and Beer License for Brooklyn Rick's Café.

**The Buzz** – Ms. Perry reported that the committee expressed concerns for the twenty-one complaints presented by the 71 Precinct on incidents at the club from January through June of this year. Mr. Smith explained how these some of the incidents might have happened and explained many of them originated from the Buzz management contacting the Precinct. The Buzz has security inside and outside of the premises and screens for guns and other weapons.

**Questions and Answers:**

**Chairman Goldstein:** Do you presently have a liquor license Mr. Smith? **Mr. Smith:** Yes we do, this application is for renewing the license. What do you plan to do about security? **Mr. Smith:** We have security in place such as cameras, as well as making routine announcement reminding patrons about their belongings and safety.

**Pearl Miles** said that the C of O does not allow cooking on the premises for Brooklyn Rick's. Any alterations that were done were done without permits. **Mr. Haynes:** We were hoping that you would tell us what to do.

**BUSINESS SESSION**

The business session began at 9:30 p.m. with thirty-four members present.

**Minutes of the June 2013 Meeting**

The minutes of the June 2013 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Edmund Fanning and seconded by Roosevelt Rose.

### **District Manager's Report**

Pearl Miles welcomed everyone back from the summer vacation and announced the following:

1. The 71 Precinct Community Council monthly meeting will take place Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at Middle School 61 at 7:30 p.m., for this month only, because of Jewish holiday.
2. Reminder, there will be a meeting on Monday, September 30, 2013 at Erasmus Hall High School at 7:30 p.m. for the Flatbush Avenue Congested Corridor Project. All are invited.

### **Committees' Reports**

**Public Safety Committee – Rosemarie Perry – Chairperson** (Reported in the Public Session, see written report)

**Education Committee – Fred Baptiste – Chairperson** (see written report)

The Department of Education is proposing to co-locate a new charter school with PS 161. The proposal came out in the summer and does not give enough time for community input. The committee would like the Board to send a resolution to the New York City Department of Education asking them to postpone the scheduled hearings to allow for input from the community and the Community Board.

**Transportation Committee – Edmund Fanning – Chairperson** (see written report)

**ULURP Committee – Michael Cetera – Chairperson** (see written report)

**Youth Services Committee – Amy Albert – Chairperson** (see written report)

**Economic Development Committee – Warren Berke – Chairperson**, (see written report)

### **Chairman's Report**

Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein welcomed everyone back after the summer recess. The chairman informed of a candidates forum sponsored by Medgar Evers College, in their Auditorium on Tuesday, October 2, 2013.

The Chairman acknowledged Ms. Laurie Cumbo and congratulated her on her success in the Democratic primary election; Ms. Cumbo will represent the 35<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District. The Chairman also acknowledged the elected officials present as well as their representatives.

### **Voting Items**

**Application to develop affordable housing at 829 Maple Street and 918 East New York Avenue**

Motion by Robert Ambrose, seconded by Timothy Thomas to support the application from The Bridge.

### **Discussion on the Motion**

**Timothy Thomas:** I have heard a lot of bigotry her tonight. This is about people; I have a sister who suffers from depression, and I have an uncle that is schizophrenic. For the record, I will be voting for the project.

**Ruby Hodge:** There should be rooms for seniors.

**Veta May Clarke:** Build the building.

**Voting:** Yes – 15; No – 14; Abstentions – 1 – The motion was carried.

**Application for Wine, Beer only License for Soulful Bistro 963 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.**

Motion to support the application for Wine and Beer license, only; the applicant is withdrawing the sidewalk café portion until further notice, seconded by Laura Imeriale.

**Voting:** Yes – 27; No – 1 – The motion is carried.

**Application for Liquor, Wine and Beer License for Brooklyn Rick's Café (Crave Bar) 429 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.**

Motion was made by Rosemarie Perry to deny the application; the applicant should return with the plans and the necessary documentation. The motion was seconded by Edmund Fanning.

**Voting:** Yes – 26; No – 1; Abs – 1 – The motion was carried.

**Application for renewal of Liquor, Wine and Beer License for The Buzz, located at 103 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Motion to support the renewal was seconded by Tessa Hackett-Viera.

**Voting:** Yes – 26; No – 1; Abs – 1 – The motion was carried.

**Resolution to be sent to the Department of Education**

A motion was made by Fred Baptiste to send a resolution to the New York City Department of Education asking that the proposed hearings on co-locating a charter school at PS 161 be postponed. The motion was seconded by Shelia Foster-Golding.

**Voting:** Unanimous

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Edmund Fanning and seconded by Ruby Hodge. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P M

**Respectfully submitted,  
Shelia Foster-Golding, Secretary  
October 17, 2013**