

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2010  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Alejandro, Jenay  
Ashman, Dion  
Balberg, Stuart  
Carter, Gwen  
Clarke, Aldith  
Davis, Leslie F.  
Dease, Geraldine  
Foster-Golding, Shelia  
Gill, Joan  
Goldstein, Jacob  
Green, Theopia  
Gross, Rabbi Nochum  
Hackett- Vieira, Tessa I.  
Hamilton-Gonzales, Sylveta  
Hershkop, Aron  
Jean-Baptiste, Maurice  
Johnson, Jannie

**Board Members Present**

Lawrence, Demetrius N.  
Morgan, Carl  
Martin, Jr, Allan  
Nicholson, Dwayne  
Nicolas, Frank  
Perry, Rosemarie  
Roachford, Romania  
Roberson, Myrtle  
Rose, Roosevelt  
Scott, Brenda  
Sperlin, Chanina  
Speilman, Rabbi Joseph  
St. Clair, Victoria  
Straker, Yvonne  
Welch, Jacqueline  
Williams, Evelyn

**Board Members Absent**

Brown, Rev. Phyllis - Sick  
Cetera, Michael  
Daniels, Julian  
Hershkop, Aron  
Hodge, Ruby - Sick  
Hutto-Lucas, Brenda  
Katz, Yaakov Y.  
Mann, Denise  
Marmulzsteyn, Samuel  
Mason, Dr. Marco  
Robinson, Karlene  
Rollerson-Blackett, Mary  
Rollins, Eleanor  
Thomas, Denise

**Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present**

Hon. Darlene Mealy - Arna Lipkind	Parks and Recreation – Alex Mezzatesta
Hon. Marty Markowitz – Ann Marie Adamson	Kings County Hospital – Debra Lesane
Hon. Letitia James – Alfred Chiodo	Medgar Evers College – Dr. William L. Pollard
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind	SUNY Downstate Medical Center – Val Henry
Hon. Yvette Clarke – Ron E. Thomas	

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Introduction of Dr. William L. Pollard, President of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, to the community.**

Chairman Jacob Goldstein introduced Dr. William Pollard to the community, to inform the community that we have a blessing in that we are fortunate to have Dr. Pollard as the new President of Medgar Evers College. He

is also a blessing as we see new structures going up on the campus which has replaced the sanitation garage which we fought for its removal for many years. This represents growth in our community.

Dr. Pollard informed that he was born in North Carolina. Over the next fifty plus years he had the opportunity to be among educators at Salem University in Raleigh, public schools, University of North Carolina and the University where he received his PhD. He has had the good fortune to be blessed with the opportunity to teach in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in this country. He started his teaching career in Salisbury, South Carolina, six years at the University of Pittsburgh, then later at the University of Louisiana. He later spent thirteen years in upstate New York. Who am I? I am a product of all the wonderful people who taught me, my parents, friends, family, teachers who allowed me to display leadership.

His vision for Medgar Evers College is for it to be the leading student accepted college in CUNY. We exist for one primary reason, which is to provide education. It means to me that the decisions we make are motivated by the needs of the students. Someone has to be in charge to know what is necessary for students to graduate. He has been around to know what is happening. College students should be able to get courses on weekends to enable them to graduate in a reasonable amount of time. He has learned that there are some courses that have not been offered at night or on weekends over the last three years. This means that we have to shake up, to see that these courses are given so that students can graduate on time. He would like to set up the campus on the outside so that in the spring and summer tables and chairs are set up outside and students can sit, read and socialize. The college needs to be more student-friendly.

He had lunch with Rabbi Goldstein a few weeks ago. He has learned a lot about the Jewish culture which he had not been accustomed to, he was fascinated. For the first time in his life he learned to give a blessing after the meal. That was new to him, but then he thought how practical it was. Why not give a blessing after you eat. This he wants for his students to open their eyes to a new world, new in a way that has not been seen before. To look at the world not as we want it to be, but as it is. We are a diverse people, the college is diverse. That diversity represents the difference that we share as a people. That is part and parcel of what they are saying about student centeredness, what it is about.

He has met with the students about varying conditions affecting disability. He has met with students who have issues on how they operate on campus. He had a meeting with students this afternoon (this is why he was late) there was a good exchange. After the wonderful and delightful exchange he said that if he didn't want the college to be one sided then something would be wrong with him. He talks about why students drop out and the information he received it is telling him that the facility needs to be acceptable to the students.

### Questions and Answers

Chairman Goldstein - Can you tell us where the construction is now and your vision of completion? Dr. Pollard - we will have the big street party about September. From his view he sees the opening of the new building around early spring, mid-summer it is expected to be completed. There will be a big celebration. The committee is headed by Katie Davis, President of the Community Council. In September we will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the college. There is a steering committee of 75 persons. There were 40 people at the first meeting. He would welcome representatives from Community Board 9 to join the committee.

His vision for the celebration is he wants Brooklyn to own Medgar Evers College. “Medgar Evers College belongs to Brooklyn” He wants Brooklyn to help us celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Medgar Evers College. One of the strong recommendations made by Carl Rodney, the chair of our Educational Foundation is that we should adhere to it the best way we can that we should look at the civil rights movement and the position of Malcolm X, by positioning Medgar Evers against the backdrop of the civil rights movement we can take the civil rights movement and the College into context. His aim is to have the students reflect upon this and to know Medgar Evers College is a particular place that has a name of great significance in Brooklyn. He wants the students to know that Medgar Evers was killed in his front yard seeking the rights of others. That is why he wants Brooklyn to be present. For the past seven months that he has been here he realized that Medgar has a way of bringing the community together. He knows a little history of Crown Heights and the tension which once existed. He knows that the tension has been addressed by some members in this room. We have to continue to make it possible for folks to live and work together as is being done at the present time in the Crown Heights community.

What will the new building provide? Dr. Pollard – first and foremost more classrooms, more labs, more modern lab space. The section that is open will be used for reception, also a place where one can eat and work. There is something that he would like to do with the yellow building behind the new building. He would like to black-top it and create a recreation space for our children in high school. The Medgar Evers High School does not have a gymnasium and nor an auditorium. He would like to ask Dr. Wilshire the Principal of Medgar Evers High School if it would be feasible to walk the students over to the area for recreational activities, we would like to provide such accommodations.

Eleanor Rollins – inaudible. Dr. Pollard – I’m concerned of the fact that Medgar Evers College is a growing CUNY College. He has asked not to grow anymore students. We have about 700 students. We can accommodate 800 but we do not have the space to accommodate. The library is noisy, that is the only space that the students can go. He would like to have a student center. The auditorium seats 600 people, and the gymnasium 400. He has a vision of what can be done with the space behind the college but will discuss this at a later time.

Myrtle Roberson – will the Carroll Street building be closed? Dr. Pollard – no, we desperately need space. What will happen people will move from Carroll Street into the new science building, not everyone from Carroll Street will go to the new Science building. The nursing students, Microbiology and Chemistry family will move into the new Science building. All of our Human Resource and Development staff now live in Metro Tech. On the third floor at Metro Tech there are about 40 people. They have to come back to campus. They will move into Carroll Street. He needs to clean up Carroll Street for that purpose.

Rosemarie Perry – do you have plans for graduate studies? Dr. Pollard - no plans for the immediate future. He would like to see graduate plans for nursing in the future however, for now we have to get other plans working. We need a strong foundation first in the undergraduate school.

District Manager Pearl Miles – has the Dormitory Authority filed the application for the de-mapping of Crown Street as yet? There is nothing in the office to indicate that it has been done. Dr. Pollard - based on the discussion he had with them, there is talk about it. How soon it will be done, he is not sure when, that phase he does not know.

Dion Ashman - For many years the pool has been closed, is there anything being done about it? Dr. Pollard - we are working on it. As the chairperson of the Youth Committee I would like to share something with you that you might like.

Brian Dean, State Farm – what are some of the initiatives you have for Medgar Evers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Do you or will you be using corporate sponsorship? Dr. Pollard - no we do not have sponsorships but I know we will get sponsorship from State Farm!! One of the things that we are doing and one of the areas that we have created is what is known as institutional advancement, we have an Office of External Relationships. What we need to do is to reach out to alumni and establish relationships, as well as do fundraising. We will certainly be in touch with you.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Dr. Pollard for his vision for Medgar Evers College and said that the community will be looking forward to working with him.

**Ms. Laurie Kilpatrick, Department of Finance, will discuss the New York City 2010 Lien Sale Process and what constituents should do if they received a lien sale notice by mail or if their property has been listed on a published lien sale list.**

Chairman Goldstein expressed the fact that he was upset that Ms. Kilpatrick was not here to present such an important issue. He asked that the community members take a flier and read the information carefully, all that constitutes a Lien sale. He shared the fact that there are a lot of our older people in our community for whatever reason they believe that since they pay off the mortgage that is the end of paying for their property. Unfortunately that is not the end. They still have to pay water, tax etc. Something's they do not understand and the next thing we know the property is up for sale. Anyone knowing of older people with homes please check on them. Find out if they have paid their property tax, water and sewer bills, etc., if they have any tickets on their house, the deadline on the flier is May 7, 2010. The flier will tell you what you can do if you receive a lien sale notice and who to contact.

**Consider request from owner of 1655 and 1657 Bedford Avenue for the rezoning of these two locations, currently zoned R6, to include a C2 overlay. These buildings are the only two buildings on this block zoned residential.**

Mr. Anthony Balboa represented the location Balboa's restaurant. Mr. Anthony explained the difficulties faced as the restaurant is located in an R6 zoning. They would like to have a C2 overlay in order to expand. They serve mainly students from Medgar Evers College. The College has grown and so has the restaurant.

Rosemarie Perry – is this a mixed use building? District Manager Pearl Miles – currently it is zoned R6, but there is a restaurant there.

Dion Ashman – Mr. Balboa has been at that location since 1995. The restaurant is across the street from Medgar Evers College. The owner is actively involved in the community.

How do you expect to expand? Mr. Anthony – expand into the back of the restaurant.

Joan Gill – Balboa restaurant serves the community. It is the only place that you can go and get a decent meal for \$4.00

What about seeking a variance? District Manager said she had spoken to Mr. Balboa and his Architect in a 3-way conversation. The Architect feels that a variance will cost a lot of money that Mr. Balboa does not have. The Architect thinks that rezoning will take a longer time; a variance might be faster but more costly.

### **Business Session**

The business session began at 7:50 pm. Present were thirty one members.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the February 2010 meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Allan Martin and seconded by Demetrius Lawrence.

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

District Manager Pearl Miles informed the board and congratulated Rosemarie Perry went to City Hall to testify on the public safety items in the Budget as part of the budget process. Ms. Miles said she was very happy that the members are beginning to become involved in the process.

Please be reminded that the Census is now. She encouraged everyone to take the time to fill out the form which takes 10 minutes, then put it in the mail. She further asked us if we knew of anyone who is having a difficult time filling out the form, a representative from the Census is in the community board office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to help you fill out the form. We need to be counted; put the word out, we need the resources in the community. Encourage people to put away their fears.

Chairman Goldstein added to the census discussion by saying that the census asks for minimum information. It is a revamped census form. They are not looking into anyone's background; it is different from years past. All they need is the body count. The census is not intrusive.

The district manager congratulated Gwen Carter who is being honored by the State Senator Eric Adams on Thursday, March 25, 2010.

### **Committees' Reports**

#### **Public Safety Committee - Rosemarie Perry**

Ms. Perry reported that the committee met on March 2; the FY 2010 Budget was discussed. Two items were selected. (1) To lease property for the 71<sup>st</sup> Precinct parking. Strategies on how to get this item funded were formulated. (2) Acquire a back-up generator for the firehouse on Rogers Avenue between Midwood and Maple Streets. One of the plans from the discussion was to go and testify before the City Council and after that to start a campaign with our elected officials whether to go to their offices or have them visit us.

At the meeting three police officers were present. They gave an update of crimes in the community.

### **Housing Committee - Gwen Carter**

Ms. Carter reported that the Housing Committee met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, among the items discussed was the affordable housing that is pending, some that already has been approved, and some that are in the pre-approval state. The committee reviewed the housing related issues for FY 2011 Preliminary Budget and request #8 on page 3 "to acquire property on the grounds of Kingsborough Psychiatric Center to provide permanent housing for families". The response from HPD is that the agency needs to study the matter further. We have asked the District Manager to invite Mr. Rubin Wolf to the next meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at 890 Nostrand Avenue. Ms. Carter would like to invite everyone to the Housing Committee meeting as this is an issue that impacts all of us.

### **Health and Social Services Committee – Dwayne Nicholson**

Mr. Nicholson reported that the Health and Social Service Committee met on March 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a problem of rodents in the community. The locations were forwarded to the District Manager.

Kings County Hospital Behavioral Health Community Advisory Committee sent a letter to Chairperson Jacob Goldstein requesting the appointment of a representative to sit in on that committee. The process will be followed up by Mr. Nicholson.

At the next meeting health profiles in the Central Brooklyn and East Flatbush areas will be discussed. Anyone knowing of such problems is asked to contact the Board's office or forward a letter to the office.

Kings County Hospital Health Fair will be on June 19, 2010 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The committee is expected to participate.

The Black Veterans Association will be invited to the next meeting to discuss issues that veterans are having and to see how Kings County may be able to assist.

### **Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee – Michael Cetera**

Mr. Cetera reported that the program for the proposed Clove Road Planning/Design Workshop scheduled for Sunday, April 11, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Brooklyn Public Library, has been postponed until May.

The committee reviewed a request from Nancie Katz, Executive Director of Seeds in the Middle, for the establishment of a green market outside Hamilton Metz Park.

### **Youth Committee – Dion Ashman**

Mr. Ashman will convene a speak-out on Friday, March 26, 2010 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Medgar Evers Preparatory School. The workshop will deal with issues concerning our youth. All are welcomed. He can be contacted at 917- 658-3608.

## Chairman's Report

The Chairman asked that re-appointment applications should be returned as soon as possible.

Please observe if there are missing signs in the district, call the community board to report the locations. Potholes need to be reported also, it is a huge problem for the community.

He received a letter today informing that the City of New York will experience a budget cut of \$1.3 billion. The Board office is being proactive; we are looking at other means to preserve the running of the office. We are fortunate to have a district manager who tries to seek out alternate ways to help in the smooth running of the day to day operations in the office. The state has also cut its budget by \$25 million. There are some Community Board's that are facing layoffs. The Mayor has asked for a 7.2% cut for the next two and a half years. This is a difficult time for everyone. We are experiencing the cutting of after-school programs, pre-kindergarten and many other sources to the community.

The Chairman acknowledged representatives for the elected officials and agency representatives present including the new Parks and Recreation Manager for Brooklyn, Alex Mezzatesta, and Val Henry a former Community Board 9 member who is now a Community Liaison with Downstate Hospital Medical Center.

## Voting Items

Request for rezoning of 1655 and 1657 Bedford from an R6 to a C2 overlay

A motion was made by Carl Morgan to submit a request to the City Planning Commissioner for a rezoning of 1655 and 1657 Bedford Avenue from an R6 to a C2 overlay. The motion was seconded by Stuart Balberg. Voting 30 yes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

Ann Marie Adamson reminded the board members to send in their reappointment applications.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Rabbi Gross and seconded by Stuart Balberg. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Secretary  
April 23, 2010