

**Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY 24th, 2016
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
Ben Edwards
Sheila Foster-Golding
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Louis Johnson
Demetrius Lawrence
Francisca Leopold
Avi Leshes

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Denise Mann
Carmen Martinez
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Hector Robertson
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Ada Terry
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Douglas Banks
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Veta May Clarke
Milton Ellis
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Kyra-Lee Harry
Aron Hershkop
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Maria Molina
Riel Peerbooms
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Kenya Sollas
Chanina Sperlin
Lorraine Thomas

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

Tahirah A. Moore – Hon. Bill de Blasio
Jamal Pollard – Hon. Eric L. Adams
Mathew Pitt - Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo
Hon. Olanike Alabi

Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse Hamilton
Karen Crawford – Hon. Ken Thompson
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
William H. Boone – Medgar Evers College

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence (DL) called the meeting to order at 7:09pm, welcomed attendees, provided Community Board 9 office contact information and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Presentation by representative of the NAACP

Presenter: Henry Butler, NAACP, CB3 District Manager

The Brooklyn NAACP President was scheduled to present on what the organization offers to the community but, unfortunately, they are unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

On May 25, there will be a public event at the Brooklyn branch of the NAACP. The NAACP has been in the Brooklyn community for over 75 years.

Presentation by Staff Sgt. Gaspar Teri III, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, regarding the Citizen Preparedness Corps.

Presenter: Luz Garcia, Second Lieutenant, New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs

Staff Sargent Terri was not available to speak and Lieutenant Garcia presented in his stead.

The Citizen Preparedness Corps' focus is how to prepare, respond and recover from natural emergencies. The goal is to teach tools and resources to better respond to emergencies. The Citizen Preparedness Corps was initiated in 2014 by Gov. Cuomo to improve community-oriented responses in emergencies when there are too few government resources to meet the individual needs of such a large population. Trainings are conducted through school, church and community organizations. The program includes emergency preparedness training and informational materials. Participants are eligible for FEMA credits. 11th graders and older are eligible to participate.

Purpose of program is to educate and allow the community to assist family and neighbors. Please go to <http://www.nyprepare.gov/aware-prepare/nysprepare/registration/> if you are interested in coordinating training programs for your community.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Did you present in front of a committee before presenting in front of the Board?

Lieutenant Garcia: No

Audience: Does your program include trainings for churches?

Lieutenant Garcia: Yes.

Audience: Is there a cost to participants or hosting organizations?

Lieutenant Garcia: There is no cost to participate. The original goal was to train 100k citizens, which was reached in March. The new goal is to train 250k citizens.

Audience: Is there coordination with New York City Office of Emergency Management's emergency preparedness program?

Lieutenant Garcia: The programs are wholly different.

Audience: Are participants under any obligation to coordinate the community in the case of an emergency?

Lieutenant Garcia: No commitment. By completing the training, you get an emergency preparedness information card, course credit and a certificate of completion.

Audience: Are there different types of trainings?

Lieutenant Garcia: There are public Governor's Events, with 100+ participants who receive some preparedness kits, and general private community events.

Audience: What is the presentation time commitment?

Lieutenant Garcia: We ask for 2 hours total for the training program.

Presentation by representative of HeartShare regarding Community Residence at 934 Carroll Street

Housing Committee Chairperson Carmen Martinez

The proposed residence is similar to the presentation made last month by Services for the Underserved. At the May 2016 Housing Committee meeting, HeartShare made a presentation to the committee seeking CB9's support for the residence at 934 Carroll Street. The residence is for four males in their 30s and 40s who have learning disabilities. Residents would not have psychological disabilities. The Committee voted in support of the home and the overall program.

Presenter: Joe Baird, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services

HeartShare seeks community approval for a 24-hour supervised group home for those with learning disabilities. HeartShare has operated other nearby homes and have always been very good neighbors to this community. Two highly training counselors will be present to assist residents. The residents will live there for years at a time and will be a part of the community. HeartShare is a state-certified program that has successfully served New Yorkers for 102 years. This is one of 49 programs currently in operation.

Since this home is staffed at all times, we must seek community approval.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Are there certain restrictions on who may reside in these homes?

Mr. Baird: Parameters are based on specific individual needs. No one is automatically disqualified for criminal issues. Residents will be relatively independent who can communicate well. Each program is designed based on the specific needs of the residents.

Yaacov Behrman: As a witness of these programs, I can speak firsthand to the good work that the organization performs.

DL: The Board will vote on this matter during the business session.

Presentation by Anthony Briggs on request for Co-Naming Rutland Road & Rogers Avenue "Lenore G. Briggs Way or Place" in honor of his mother Lenore Gertrude Briggs

First Vice Chairperson Patricia Baker

Mr. Briggs attended the Transportation Committee meeting last week and provided information required for co-naming. He has a meeting scheduled with City Councilmember Mathieu Eugene this coming Thursday to discuss the matter. Ms. Briggs ran a prominent day care center and ran a school in the community. Her students, including artists and writers, have praised her long into their adulthoods, showing a strong impact on those she taught.

Presenter: Anthony Briggs

Education of young children and service to community is important. Lenore Briggs migrated from the Caribbean in 1965. Before and after coming to the United States, she worked as a teacher. She wanted to open her own nursery school at her home. At a point, she was told that she needed a license, which she obtained and changed location. At 559 Rogers Avenue, she opened a school. She also obtained an advanced degree in education with a focus on Montessori style teaching. Soon after, Mom's Center for Early Childhood Development opened, where many in our community were taught. Many know of her. Due to waiting list, another school was opened in area. In over 30 years, 5,000 children were served.

The petition for the Board's consideration is to name the corner of Rogers and Rutland in her honor.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

DL: The comment's focus must be on agenda items and be limited to 3 minutes.

Community Board Member Tim Thomas:

Homeowners received calls about zoning on their block. Offered money for neighbors to sell houses. People can make money but there are also some people who are being scammed. As co-president of the block association, I value character of neighborhood.

While this has been coming, little has been done. People feel mis-zoned and that there are buildings being built out of character. CB has done nothing but approve study. CB must consider needs of the community.

With new affordable housing law this year, consider a pro-development mayor coming in and doing worse things.

Karen Fleming:

Would like Hector Robertson to be nominated for CB9 chair and for board members to use their discretion in voting.

It is inappropriate for Community Board 9 to communicate with government agencies regarding said agencies meeting with members of the public.

Alicia Boyd:

Concerned with the lack of staff at the Community Board 9 office and it is unclear why employees have left.

Open meetings laws are not followed. The community needs to ensure Board transparency.

Horace Burrowes

After cycling for 30 years, often racing with pro cyclists, now focused on training rides at Floyd Bennett Field. Would like to obtain a permit for a July 10th event on Kingston Avenue. The hope is for this to be a once a year event for community and kids to promote cycling. Would like

board to approve permit to allow event and promote athletics within the community. Ongoing trainings take place on Thursday nights at Floyd Bennett Field. Events are free for children.

Board Members noted that Mr. Burrowes should reach out to the Community Board 9 Office for information on permitting.

Jay Sorid:

Transit zones in connection with the Brooklyn-Queens-Aquifer were removed from areas without others being informed, which is a civil rights issue. Affected communities should receive additional disclosures based on equal protection matters. The Public Advocate should issue a statement about modifications to transit zones. "Fair Share Law" meant that all areas received equal services, but there is now oversaturation in some communities.

DL: The Board recognizes elected officials, representatives and esteemed members of the community who are present for the Board Meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 33 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

April 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 20, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes was duly made by Avi Leshes, seconded by Francisca Leopold and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee (See minutes from the May 2, 2016 Committee meeting)

Education & Youth Committee (See minutes from the May 3, 2016 Committee meeting)

Housing Committee (See minutes from the May 21, 2016 Committee meeting)

Transportation Committee (See minutes from the May 18, 2016 Committee meeting)

Search Committee – Dr. Zorina Frederick, Chairperson (See also minutes from May 4, 2016 & May 12, 2016 Committee meetings): All seven members present at two meetings. The Committee started with 70 resumes and each member reviewed 10 resumes each. Based on guidelines of second meeting, each member will be able to narrow down the candidates. Reviewed list of questions for candidates. Between May 12 and today, the Committee has determined candidates and will conduct interviews on May 31st. Candidates will present to the full Board at the June 2016 Board meeting.

On Behalf of Mayor Bill De Blasio: Tahira Moore, Brooklyn Borough Director

- The Health Institute for Mental Health is providing New Yorkers with first aid training. Those who are interested can apply online. See handout for additional information on the Mayor's activity.

On Behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams: Jamal Pollard, Borough President's Office

- A Free Legal Services Clinic has now opened at Borough Hall.

On Behalf of Kings County District Attorney Ken Thompson: Karen Crawford

- Please see handouts regarding the Begin Again warrant reconciliation event and the Immigration Forum, which will also address real estate fraud.

On Behalf of State Senator Jesse Hamilton: Reuven Lipkind

- On June 2, Senator Hamilton will host a State of the District Resource Fair at 260 Eastern Parkway.

District Leader Olanike Alabi

- Those interested in working at the polls in the June 2016 election should register soon.
- On May 26 at 6pm, there will be an opportunity to meet candidates for State Supreme Court.

Nominating Committee – Augustine Blackwell (AB), Chairperson: The Nominating Committee met on May 5 to discuss polling Community Board Members for executive seat nominations. Members were contacted to gauge interest in executive seat positions, but Members can also make in-person nominations today.

AB: After various nominations were considered on the floor and either accepted or rejected by the nominees, these are the final candidates for executive seat elections that will be held at the next Board Meeting:

- o Chair: Demetrius Lawrence & Hector Robertson
- o First Vice Chair: Dr. Zorina Frederick & Fred Baptiste
- o Second Vice Chair: Patricia Moses
- o Executive Secretary: Timothy Thomas
- o Treasurer: Warren Berke
- o Members-at-Large: Francisca Leopold & Eve-lyn Williams

AB: Nominations are now closed.

Voting on Agenda Items

Motion that Community Board 9 submit a letter of support for HeartShare's application to establish a Community Residence at 934 Carroll Street was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Motion that Community Board 9 submit a letter of support to co-name Rutland Road & Rogers Avenue "Lenore G. Briggs Way or Place" was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Chairman's Report

DL: CAMBA will be at Community Board 9 offices, 890 Nostrand Avenue, from June 6 to June 11 to provide members of the community with advisement concerning rent support and other housing-related support.

DL: Board Chairs please make sure to email minutes within three days of meeting.

DL: Recognize board members who have been volunteering at the board office during business hours. Until the office is once again fully staff, members are encouraged to volunteer during business hours.

DL: Terri Witherspoon is not at the Community Board 9 office because she is on medical leave, per the Family & Medical Leave Act. Her anticipated return is June 24th. Currently there are hopes to hire a district manager and a community assistant soon.

DL: Community Board 9 most recently updated its Bylaws in 2008 and new revisions are needed. Community Board 9 should update bylaws through an ad hoc Bylaw Committee. Chairman Lawrence then asked for the Board to consider a motion to create an ad-hoc Bylaw Committee. The previous committee was disbanded and a new one must be established.

Motion *that an ad-hoc Bylaw Committee be created* was duly made by Michael Liburd, seconded by Augustine Blackwell and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

DL: Those who want to volunteer for this committee can reach out to Chairman Lawrence.

DL: Community Board 9 should increase outreach with the community. With that in mind, it is important to create an ad-hoc committee to ensure that all can have a voice.

Community Board Member Beverly Newsome: The Board should consider officially creating an ad-hoc Outreach Communication Committee. The Outreach Communication Committee's goal would be to expand reach of Community Board 9 within the community. This will increase Community Board 9's outreach to further inform and engage with the area, especially for those who cannot or do not attend meetings regularly.

Motion *that an ad-hoc Outreach Communication Committee be created* was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion *to adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made, seconded and approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Acting Secretary
June 10, 2016