

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON DECEMBER 21, 2010  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Jenay Alejandro  
Pastor Robert Ambrose  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Gwen Carter  
Michael Cetera  
Aldith Clarke  
Brian Dean  
Geraldine Dease  
Edmund Fanning  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Theopia Green  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Edu Hermelyn  
Aron Hershkop  
Ruby Hodge  
Brenda Hutto-Lucas

**Board Members Present**

Jannie Johnson  
Yaakov Katz  
Samuel Marmulzsteyn  
Carl Morgan  
Frank Nicolas  
Dwayne Nicholson  
Rosemarie Perry  
Mary Rollerson-Blackett  
Eleanor Rollins  
Roosevelt Rose  
Brenda Scott  
Chanina Sperlin  
Rabbi Joseph Spielman  
Yvonne Straker  
Jacqueline Welch  
Evelyn Williams  
Maurice Jean-Baptiste

**Board Members Absent**

Dion Ashman  
Stuart Balberg  
Julian Daniels - sick  
Leslie Davis  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Shawn Francis  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Demetrius Lawrence - sick  
Dr. Marco Mason  
Romania Roachford  
Myrtle Roberson – death in family  
Karlene Robinson - sick  
Victoria St. Clair  
Denise Thomas  
Robert Agyemang

**Elected Officials/Agency Representatives**

Hon. Letitia James  
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Mr. Alfred DeGemmis, Field Coordinator, One Percent for Culture, will let the community know about the One Percent for Culture Campaign – this campaign to educate New Yorkers about the value of non-profit culture to New York City by generating private and public support to ensure that the City's culture organizations receive appropriate funding as the economy recovers.**

Ms. Nicole Robinson, leader for the Brooklyn One Percent for Culture Campaign. She is very involved in Brooklyn, visiting Community Boards, informing them of the funding sources that would ensure that the City's cultural organizations receive appropriate funding as the economy recovers. The campaign is a long term campaign, it is not immediate. This means to garner support which will eventually be a financial commitment. The program is designed to serve the community more.

Who is One Percent for Culture? There is an unprecedented collaboration of non-profit culture organizations, including individual artists and concerned citizens from every borough and council district. They are partnered with business, academic, cultural, and political leaders that will educate New Yorkers about the economic and educational value of non-profit cultural organizations. According to the Alliance for the Arts, non-profit culture in the city attracts \$2.9 million tourists and generates \$7.5 billion in economic impact annually by spending \$2.9 billion in labor cost, space rental, advertising, administrative expenses, etc; paying \$2.2 billion in wages alone and creating 40,000 jobs. This campaign is similar to the one done by the Department of Parks & Recreation in 2001 where they seek financial support from the mayoral candidates. At that time they were seeking one percent of the City's budget. They haven't reached that goal as yet. This campaign is similar to the Parks campaign. They are also seeking support from foundations.

What is the goal? The goal is to seek an increase in funding of the non-profit sector by 2016. They are aware of the economic impact at this time, but hope by then the economy would be on an upward swing and that they would be able to receive more by the next five years; that there will be a recovery of the City's Budget and ultimately benefit from that by receiving a greater return on the amount of contributions set. Ms. Robinson would like the community to be an active part of the campaign. One can go to [www.oneculture.org](http://www.oneculture.org) and sign-up on line as well as share the information with family and friends. On the sheet provided have your family and friends sign it and return it in the self addressed envelope provided. It is hoped that we can get five thousand signatures to present to the City in order to show support for the campaign.

### **Questions and Answers**

Inaudible – has to do with funding. Ms. Robinson- funding is a long process. Right now it is an educational campaign.

Inaudible. Ms Robinson – The Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden are part of this campaign.

Chairman Goldstein – thanked the representatives of One Percent for Culture for bringing this campaign to the community's awareness. Most of us do not know about their organization. Our area consists of ninety five percent of Brooklyn's Culture. There is the Library, Museum and Botanic Garden right here in our district.

### **Business Session**

#### **Minutes – October 26, 2010**

The minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. Motion to accept the minutes as presented were made by Frank Nicholas and seconded by Carl Morgan. The minutes were adopted.

#### **Minutes – November 14, 2010**

The minutes of the November 14, 2010 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. Motion to accept the minutes were made by Dwayne Nicholson and seconded by Gwen Carter. The minutes were adopted.

## District Manager's Report

Ms. Pearl Miles-Lee wished everyone the blessings of the season and prayers that everyone remain safe until we meet for the New Year. She concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday.

**Chairman Rabbi Jacob Goldstein welcomed and introduced Councilmember Letitia James.** Councilmember James informed that many things have happened since she last visited the Board meeting:

1. There was a major hearing in the City Council regarding Bike Lanes which was the subject of another Community Board.
2. A meeting regarding recycling and sanitation rules.
3. Third hearing in regards to how we dispose of waste oil. Many restaurants dump waste oil in the sewer system. It is a problem here in Crown Heights. Crown Heights was targeted with a big mark when we went to the hearing.
4. There are major problems in this community. It is hoped the Community Board 9 will focus on them at some point.

The most important issue is the City's Budget. Tonight someone spoke about One Percent for Culture. By the end of the year we will be losing over six hundred city employees. There is a possibility of teachers. The Department of Education is looking at a loss of over seven hundred teachers in New York. Administration for Children Services, a loss of two-hundred workers; preventive workers of over two-hundred workers. Vouchers for the orthodox community, they are on the chopping Board as of the end of this year. This is something that she has been fighting for with her colleagues from Borough Park. In Brooklyn we are looking at the possibility of closing thirteen day care centers that serve primarily low income children under the Administration for Children Services. It is proposed that in the evening hours twenty fire houses will be closed. Most of our cultural institutions will be cut, libraries, etc.

Recently two years ago the Councilmember investigated a project called City Time. As most of you might know that is where our money is. Eight million dollars were stolen by some contractors. She called for an investigation. She asked John Lui the incoming Comptroller to conduct an audit. To date four people have been indicted and there are a number of arrests to come. The contract started out at \$753 million dollars it is now almost \$763 million dollars. There was no one monitoring the money including Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Eighty million of that money is gone. Most of these individuals worked in the previous administration under Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Some of them retired, started up consulting firms. They put their families on payroll, used false time sheets. They were not monitored. They lived like kings and queens on Long Island. She suggested that the Mayor halt this lay off until such time until we can recoup our funds. She is unsure whether the funds will be recouped before the layoffs. None the less we have to try.

We are told that the economy is recovering but she is really concerned because we are looking at ten billion dollars (\$10 B) in deficit. The state has cut its funding which means we have to brace ourselves. One agency that is hands-off is the New York City Police Department. There has been an increase of violent crimes in the city.

The City Council celebrated the bravery of the detective at the hair salon. The detective shot the suspect who tried to rob the salon while she was getting her hair done. The Councilmember's quote is "don't mess with a woman when she is getting her hair done". She wished all a happy holiday and thanked all for the job they are doing serving the community.

## **Question and Answers**

What is the difference between the oils used in the restaurants? There are two types of oil. Brown and yellow oil. What they are trying to do is to recycle the oil and sell it back to the restaurants at cheaper rates than currently purchased. We do not want the oil to be dumped in the sewer the proposal is to recycle the oil. Another problem is the streets are dirty. This is because of alternate side parking. She would like to change that as well as recycling. We have to educate Community Board 9 about recycling. We spend over two hundred million dollars exporting out garbage to Virginia and Pennsylvania landfills. These are our tax dollars that could be used to build schools, for our Police Departments and Fire Departments etc. There are consequences to dumping garbage. The more garbage on the streets the more our children suffer with asthma.

## **Committees' Reports**

### **Housing Committee – Gwen Carter. See written report.**

Ms. Carter thanked the members of the Housing Committee for working with her during 2010. She wished all a Happy Holiday.

### **Health and Social Services Committee – Dwayne Nicolson. See written report.**

A minute of silence was kept for Mr. Mervyn Johnson owner of Merv's Bakery who was murdered. Discussed plans for obtaining funding for requests contained in the FY 2012 Capital and Expense Budget for Community District 9.

### **Public Safety Committee – Rosemarie Perry. See written report**

Review public safety related items in the FY 2012 Capital and Expense Budget requests for committee action and plan of action for New York Fire Department and the 71 Precinct. Tour of the Precinct in January. Cutbacks affecting the 71 Precinct janitorial services. Proposed changes related to parade permits. Budget cuts affecting the FDNY and the impact on the community. Also the need for a backup generator. The committees' request for smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

### **Transportation – Ed Fanning. See written report**

Review of items related to Capital and Expense Budget requests. Transportation Committee will start preparing supporting material to be used in advocating with elected officials to provide the necessary funding. Request for a traffic calming study with Department of Transportation. The issue of drainage on Sterling Street to be discussed with Department of Environmental Protection.

## **Chairman's Report**

Chairperson Rabbi Jacob Goldstein reported the following:

The Kingston Avenue project is moving along extremely well. The water main construction has been less of a headache that it has previously thought. About 90% is installed and about 70% left for hook up. Due to the fact that there is concern about cutting off water to schools and St. Marks Day School is connected to the main that is being worked on, they will work diligently to work on the main when the school closes for the

holiday. There were intriguing questions regarding the bike lane on Kingston Avenue. Chairman informed that everything will be back in place after the completion of Kingston Avenue.

Thanks to Board members who attended the meetings this year. Your attendance makes “the chain and links stronger” Thanks also to community residents for attendance. Condolences to Chanina Sperlin on the passing of his mother-in-law. Thanks to Richard Villabera for his commitment to Community Board 9. You have been a role model to your peers.

The chairman expressed his disgust regarding the deaths of Mr. Mervyn Johnson, owner of Merv’s Bakery (a few doors down from the Board office). Mr. Johnson was fatally shot on his way home. Also the helper of the laundromat who was killed on Carroll Street. The question is what is happening to our community? We have to pray for our police officers that they apprehend these people and take them off the street. Also pray for peace and safety for our communities.

The chairman hoped everyone received cards from Borough President Marty Markowitz. Since there was no further business for discussion Rabbi Goldstein wished all a safe, healthy and happy holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Jacqueline Welch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Secretary  
January 20, 2011