

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Jenay Alejandro
Dion Ashman
Stuart Balberg
Gwen Carter
Aldith Clarke
Julian Daniels
Shelia Foster-Golding
Joan Gill
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Jannie Johnson
Yaakov Katz
Demetrius Lawrence

Board Members Present

Denise Mann
Sam Marmulzsteyn
Allan Martin, Jr.
Dr. Marco Mason
Carl Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Myrtle Roberson
Eleanor Rollins
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Speilman
Victoria St Clair
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Phyllis Brown
Michael Cetera, AIA
Leslie Davis
Geraldine Dease
Theopia Green
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aaron Hershkop
Gary Marshall
Rosemarie Perry
Romania Roachford
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Ana Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Hon. Olanike Alabi
Dr. William Boone – Medgar Evers College

Wanda Gebrehinot – Hon. Karim Camara
Ron Thomas – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Debra Lesane – Kings County Hospital Center

Inspector Peter Simonetti, Commanding Officer for the 71 Precinct will address community complaints about guns, shootings, and murders in the district, as well as, crime and drugs on Flatbush Avenue, within Community District 9. Community Board 9 is responding to numerous complaints from the community about these issues that are negatively impacting the lives of community residents

Inspector Simonetti expressed how happy he was to be able to talk to the community regarding some of the problems they are having in the precinct. Although crimes are down, there is an increase in shooting incidents, 38 for the year. A lot of young people are involved then there is the gang violence. In our community the gangs are not together, they are separated. We have a few Crips and the Bloods – you will learn later what to look for in a certified gang member. There are certain clothing that they wear, certain symbols that they display. This will inform you, so that if you see any of this displayed you will know what they stand for as well as if you see any activities going on you can contact the precinct.

Within the Precinct Community Affairs there is Officer Vinnie Martinos who will take any complaint that you have and will help you help someone either to get out of the gang or to help you help someone else to know what to look for regarding gang activities. There are officers who go to the intermediate schools to try and teach the kids about the gangs and how to get out of gangs.

Every third Thursday of the month there is the Precinct Council meeting, come and tell us what is going on in your building or on your block. It is important that you report it. Who know what is going on, on your block better than you? You are the one who knows the kid next door. Things don't happen overnight, it takes the community and the precinct working together to get the job done. There are incidents where mother and father are working, the child is home, they are not aware of what is going on, that child may be in a gang and they don't know.

It is your time to stand up and say we are not taking it anymore. We can let the police help us by helping ourselves. We will help with the block association and tenant association. Anyone with drug complaints, you don't have to do it openly, see us on the side, we will take the information and we will get back to you. One positive thing in the Precinct is that gun arrests are way up, gun arrests are much higher. For the holidays be careful. If you ride the trains pay attention to what is happening around you. Don't go out by yourself if possible.

Remember, if you don't call in the drug problems, they will continue. We have been to places where there are so many problems and no-one has called in, for example, Ebbets Field has many problems. We know it, we have issued eight summonses this year alone. Yet no one has called in, no one has complained, no one has said to us there is a problem in 2C where some guy is hanging out in the lobby and get drugs out of the mailbox. No one seems to have noticed. But we do, because we go there and do our investigations. We do search warrants and we get drugs, we get guns, we locked up people, we go to the district attorney and we prosecute them and get them out of the development. One person shot or one person's homicide is one too many. It shouldn't be. We need your help.

Questions and Answers

Tim Thomas – I live on Clarkson Avenue, there are a lot of activities going on, there are stabbings, shootings, I see other precinct cars. I would like to know, do the precincts work together? Answer – the question has to do with the bordering precincts, how we work together. There is the 71, the 70 and the 67 – what we do as bordering precincts is to discuss crime patterns on the border and together we address the problems.

Denise Mann – I have lived on my block for 40 years and I have never seen a beat cop on my block. Answer – I will give you the contact information for the officers who patrol your block.

Dion Ashman – there is an incredible police presence on the east of Nostrand Avenue, which you do not see on the west of Nostrand Avenue. Why is that so? Answer – we will investigate this concern, give the information to Officer Martinos.

Community Resident – the F-Tap program came into our building, the program no longer exists. My understanding is that there would be constant patrol of the building. We haven't seen any change in the drug activities in the building. Answer – our police officers do a vertical patrol of the building, discuss with Officer Martinos to come down and discuss the issue.

District Manager Pearl Miles – would you provide the lists of all the CPOP officers in the district so we can share it with the community? Answer – we will gladly do that. This way you will know what officer patrols

your area, and secondly it is like taking ownership, they get complaints and will work with the residents to resolve them.

Resident of 240 Crown Street – her two sons were walking home. They saw someone in a car trying to stop them. They ran into the building. An man chased them into the building, threw them on the floor, my son is 12 years old, the man pointed a gun to his head. This was the first time my kids were by themselves walking at night, they are always with me or their father. They did not know the men were police, they never explained anything, my kids were scared, they ran, they did not know who these men were. Answer – after the meeting we will take a complaint and we will also look it up in the files and get back to you.

Jacqueline Welch – will there be a website for information that the public can tap into to find out information on things that are happening in the district? Answer – we have emails of community residents or groups that we send information to. We will be happy to add you to our email list and send you information. Just give us your email.

Nochum Gross – if an incident takes place within the subway, do you work with the Transit Police. Answer – yes, we work with District 32 on Franklin Avenue, also there is one at Utica Ave. We have corridors on the subways that we patrol together. On Franklin Avenue we have made a lot of arrests working with the school unit and the transit officers.

Letitia James – is there an update on security cameras? Answer – yes, we just submitted a request for five more cameras, we will see what happens.

Stuart Balberg – do you have plate reader cameras? Answer – yes, we have them and we are using them.

Community Resident – I live at New York Ave and East New York Avenue, there is a silver car parked there for over six weeks, I have called the police about it, no one has been there to investigate. Answer – is the car still there? I will send someone to take care of it tonight.

Community Resident – street lights are dim in certain areas, what can be done about getting brighter lights on our streets? Chairman Goldstein – the dimness of the light could be because of the wattage, call the board office and give us the exact location. The lights especially on Eastern Parkway in the summer are blocked by the trees. We need to talk to the Parks Department and DOT to make the lights brighter. The blocks on Franklin Avenue between Union Street and Bedford Avenue on the right side was very dark, we had a lot of problems there, we worked with the building owners, if you notice now the block is all lit up. If you have that issue let us know, let the board office know and we can work together to improve dim lights.

District Manager Pearl Miles – I was at a meeting called by Chief Fox today. Our Conditions Sergeant at the 71 Precinct, **Sgt Vincent Dambrosio** was there also. He gave me his personal cell phone number to share with you. It is **347-838-1487**. He said you can call him any day any time, he does not mind, just call him. You can call him with any complaint, as the conditions sergeant he is responsible for responding to public drinking, lewdness, smoking weed, disorderly conduct, disorderly groups. The precinct has zero tolerance for these activities that impact on the community, but he needs the community's help. He is able to respond right away. Sgt Dambrosio said to not be afraid to call, you will not have to go to court, the district attorney's office will not call you, so do not be afraid to call.

Inspector Simonetti concluded by inviting all present to attend the Precinct Council meeting on Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Inspector Simonetti for his presentation.

Police Officer Daniel Fox, NYPD Youth Service Section, will do a Power Point presentation on gangs and gang related matters. This presentation is an effort to better educate and raise awareness in the community.

P.O. Fox informed that he does presentations on gangs in almost all the schools in Brooklyn – Wingate, South Shore, Canarsie, Brownsville, East New York, Bed Sty – he is all over Brooklyn as well as other boroughs. He does basketball tournaments whatever sports they are in he is there to help them. Officer Fox showed pictures of youth at Rikers Island, the conditions under which they find themselves.

Officer Fox made the community aware of the symbols of gangs, the clothing of gangs. Among the things that one should be aware of when dealing with gangs, is to look out for the clothing, they are wearing blue, red, black and yellow, the beads, different handshakes, etc. The more things they wear the higher their status, one could be a chief, that is he is high up in the ranks. We must also be aware that kids also wear these things as a fashion it does not necessarily mean that they are in a gang.

Gangs started in the late 1960's – how do we define gangs? A group with a common name, signs and symbols. Why do kids join gangs? Respect, excitement, a sense of belonging some don't have a family; for protection, for money - where are gangs located? All over the place. In East New York, in million dollar neighborhoods, and in poor neighborhoods. They are all over.

The Latin Kings migrated to the US in the 1970's when a big civil war broke out in their country. Their weapon is the machete. These guys want to make sure you are dead. They want to take your head off as an example by putting fear into the other guys. Latin Kings wear yellow and black beads with a cross, their symbol is the crown. The Crips wear blue and white with the bandana. The Bloods wear red. Skinheads wear tattoos.

To get into a gang a girl may have to sleep with five guys in one night. The average age to be in a gang used to be 14, now there are 9 year olds in gangs, members are recruited at shopping malls, arcades, parties, etc.

Officer Fox said that one can accomplish a lot by giving kids an outlet such as sports, or some kind of activities after school, these are positive choices. Programs that prepares kids to go on job interviews, teach them how to dress for interviews, how to use eye contact, etc. They are taught about the difficulties in getting a good job if you commit a felony. You let them understand that a high school diploma can get them only \$13,000 a year job, but if they had a college degree they can do a whole lot better. Being in a gang is not against the law. It is the activities that are done in the gang that are against the law.

Gangs cross out each other graffiti. For example, KFC – kill the @\$% crips; BK – blood killer; BFL – blood for life. Every gang needs money. Gang bangers are told to sit on the corner and bring in money for the gang, or sell drugs, prostitute, or whatever it needs to bring in money. As a means of initiation into the gang you are told to go out and slit someone's throat. They don't care who they attach. They walk with box cutters to do their job. A kid is killed for a dollar; a kid is killed for his iPod.

The things to look out for when a child comes home – look out for the color of clothing, is he wearing red all the time or blue all the time; look at his shoes, his books, maybe there is graffiti depicting gang signs and symbols. Every ethnic group has a gang. For example the Dominicans, their symbol DDP meaning Dominicans Don't Play. It is difficult to get out of a gang. A fifteen year old girl tried to get out of the gang, she was raped and held captive for two weeks.

Officer Fox read an article by Pastor Phillips which he likes to read to the children. The article talks about when the Bloods and Crips come down from Los Angeles or New York, there are the Bloods on one side and the Crips on one side. Our job is to try to keep the peace. A lot of people in the neighborhood are afraid of gangs so we try to bridge the gap, to keep the peace, to stop the shooting between them.

Chairman Goldstein in summing up said that this was a dynamic presentation. It was the first time the community was made aware in this manner about the things that happen in gangs. we need to understand what we are facing.

Questions and Answers

Pearl Miles – what gangs are in this community? Mostly Bloods and Crips.

Eleanor Rollins – what do you do with the wannabe's? About 90% are wannabes. Gangs are also at odds with each other in the same gang, for example, one gang (bloods) can form a group on New York Avenue and another gang (bloods) can form a group on Nostrand Avenue, one group cannot cross over into the others territory even though they are all bloods. Similarly, both bloods and crips can live on the same block and they will get together against bloods and crips who live on another block. That how problems begin.

Community resident – how can you be reached? Call 646-221-9216.

Community resident – I see drug deals and activities all the time in the neighborhood, by the time you call the cops and they arrive the dealers are gone. Answer – if they are 16 years of age they can get a summons for loitering.

Ruby Hodge – there are drugs in the schools, what about the school safety officers, can they make arrests. They can make arrests. They have status.

Allan Martin spoke of his experience in the school system as a teacher at Erasmus High School. He has seen the handshakes, putting things on shirts, etc, these students are 15, 16 years old. The undercover cop chases a student, the next day he is back in school and the class that I teach and there is nothing he can do about it.

Jacqueline Welch – when these situations occur in schools do the police, school administrators and parents come together to find solutions? In these situations you have to know how to talk to the student in a certain way before he will admit his/her involvement in a gang.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Police Officer Fox for making us aware of gang activities and how we can identify youth involved in gangs.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session began at 8:50 pm with 38 members present.

Minutes of the October 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the October 2009 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. Correction: Mr. Julian Daniels was present at the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes with correction was made by Denise Mann and seconded by Gwen Carter. The minutes were adopted.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Goldstein acknowledged the following representatives: Wanda Gebrehinot – Hon. Karim Camara; Rueven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams; Ron Thomas – Hon. Yvette Clarke; Ana Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy; Hon. Olanike Alabi – District Leader; Debra Lesane – KCHC.

Governor Patterson will be in Brooklyn on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:00 o'clock.

The chairman wished all a happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jannie Johnson and seconded by Denise Thomas. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
December 16, 2009