



## COMMUNITY BOARD 5, BROOKLYN

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**Honorable Eric L. Adams**  
Brooklyn Borough President

**APPROVED AT: October 24th, 2018 General Board Mtg.**  
**Attendance: 28 Board Members (All in Favor)**

Andre T. Mitchell, Chairman



Melinda Perkins, District Manager

### General Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 J.H.S 166 - George Gershwin 800 Van Siclen Avenue – Brooklyn NY 11207

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT = 31

ABDIN, MISBAH	FLORENTINO, WILFREDO	MUHAMMAD, PAUL	WATSON, KENNETH
ARTEAGA, NOHELY	FRANCO, JESSICA	MULLEN-FIELDS, LESLIE	WATSON, GENA
AYANFODUN, TOYIN	HOLLOWAY-DUNN, C	NILES, MONTREZ	WILKINS, WILLIAM
BAILEY, JESSICA	JARRET, HELEN	RAMOS, ALBERTO	WORLEY, HAZEL
BUIE, SHARESE	KABIR, JAHANGIR	RIGGINS, VINCENT	
BULLOCK, CHARLES	LESIS, CARRION	ROSADO, JOSE	
COX, CERWIN	LOWMAN, ALICE	SATTAR, ABDUL	
FELICIANO, MIGUEL	MITCHELL, ANDRATTA	SCOTT-BRAYBOY, JOYCE	
FISCHER, ANGUS	MITCHELL, ANDRE T.	WALCOTT, ANDREW	

#### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT = 13

BRIGHT, VIVIAN	MATTIS, COLINFORD	PITTS, DAMIAN	WILLIAMS, TAHNIQUA
CAMACHO, DENNIS	MERCADO, DAMIAN	PLUMMER, VIOLA	
COLON, HENRY	PEAN, COLETTE	SCOTT, ALBERT	
HARLEY, MARIE	PETERSON, JAMES	SMITH, CINDY	

#### BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED = 4

ANDREW, JASON	NKHEREANYE, KELE		
KASRU, SYED			
LUCAS, NIKKI			

**Total Board Members: 48**

**District Office Staff Present:**

Melinda Perkins – District Manager

Keron Alleyne – Deputy District Manager

Jahayra Richardson – Community Associate

Shamika Chappel – Community Associate

## OPENING

Board Chairman Andre T. Mitchell called the September 2018, General Board Meeting of Community Board 5 to order at 6:47pm. Chairman Mitchell welcomed community residents, board members and agencies to the 18-19 session. He thanked the representatives from CAMBA and the school representatives in the building that opened this space to the Community Board. All new attendees were asked to stand to be publicly welcomed. Chairman Mitchell then explained the importance of Community Members being heard first through our Community Voices segment of the program especially with the collection of representation in the room. Chairman Mitchell closed by highlighting the presence of Councilmember Inez Barron and Assembly Member Charles Barron.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY VOICES

**Neighborhood Housing Services – Tyrone McDonald:** announced that Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be hosting a First-Time Homebuyer Seminar at the Full Effect Gospel Ministries at 900 New Lots Avenue. Rep. McDonald announced a second event for Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at God's Battalion of Prayer Church at 661 Linden Blvd.

**New Lots Library – Leah Salem:** announced the ConnectED Library HotSpot Program which provides thousands of NYC K12 students with free internet access for the rest of the school year. The two sessions will be hosted at the New Lots branch – one Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and the second October 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Rep. Salem announced the Team Up to Read Program which is gear toward students age 5 – 9. This program is geared to enhance the reading ability of the young people in the district. All events may be found on the community calendar in the back.

**Girl Scouts of Greater NY – Judith Rivera:** explained the Girls Scouts prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. As a Brooklyn Recruiter, Rep. Rivera announced that the PJ Avitto Community Center has recently started a troop, and that she can be of assistance to organizations, churches and community groups interested in starting a troop.

**Sisters Building Sisters in Brooklyn – Joyce Scott-Brayboy:** announced 2 events - the first event taking place September 27<sup>th</sup> at 405 Williams Avenue which is a t-shirt making workshop for domestic violence. The second event is taking place Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual walk to end Domestic Violence. The walk starts at the Thomas Jefferson Campus and concludes at 405 Williams Avenue. Additional information can be found at [builidasister.org](http://builidasister.org).

**Theater Development Fund - Wilfredo Florentino:** announced the Create NY Program which is a program geared towards increasing art access in communities like East New York. There

will an information session about the program Saturday October 6th 1:30pm to 3pm and Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 534 Livonia Avenue. You must be 21 years old or over to join. The Create NY program is a yearlong effort of once a month meetings that may allow for attending Broadway shows and other activities. The program ends with a culminating activity and this year's activity happened at East NY Farms block party and some Community Board Members attended and were featured in the effort.

**Assembly Member Charles Barron's Office - Melvin Faulkner:** vehemently announced that members of the prison system should be implored to vote. He stated that members of the community that are incarcerated with some felonies that may be able to vote. Rep. Faulkner stated that he has the literature for all who can use it in the back.

**Wyona Street Block Association - Lisa Banks-Jackson:** inquired about getting speedbumps on their block due to incessant speeding. The second inquiry was about noise control for her neighbors due to lack of responsiveness of police.

**Donna Davis** – complained about a worksite on New Lots and Powell. Trash, debris and large pipes have been accumulating all along that area and wants assistance in getting the area cleaned up.

**Brite Leadership Coalition Vincent Riggins** – recalled the sale of Starrett City and highlighted the leadership of Councilmember Inez Barron and Assembly Member Charles Barron for their unprecedented consistency with meeting every section of the development. Mr. Riggins gave a report on their Father's Day event in which Man Up Inc. participated in.

**LDC Of East New York – Joel Oporta:** announced the opening of the lottery for the Livonia Phase II affordable housing development. Rep. Oporta, stated that there were guides in the back to assist all interested in applying and that CB5 residents have a higher chance of getting an apartment due to the 50% preference guidelines. Public Theatre with the North Brooklyn YMCA will be screening Mid-Summer Nights.

**CHENY Coalition – Alberto Ramos:** announced a Breast Cancer Walk happening at the Ridgewood Reservoir on October 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to walk please feel free to speak with Mr. Ramos at the end of the meeting.

**Word Up Café - Sharon Kennedy-Frost:** announced the 2 year celebration of Word Up Café on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 located at 652 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mrs. Kennedy-Frost asked for the support of the community through a gofundme/theheartofateacher. She continued announcements with slew of programs ranging from sickle cell awareness to a Gospel brunch and closed by asking the community for their continued support.

**Man Up Inc. - Michael Rivera:** announced the Fatherhood Initiative and the Wounded Fathers Project. These men speak about domestic violence and provide social emotional support for Fathers in the community. These workshops are extremely beneficial to residents that need this support.

## ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

Chairman Mitchell acknowledged the following elected officials and staff members in attendance:

Brooklyn Borough President.....Rep. Anthony Drummond  
NYC Council Member Inez Barron 42<sup>nd</sup> CD.....Councilmember & Rep. Anita Fischer  
NYS Assembly Member Charles Barron 60<sup>th</sup> AD.....Assembly Member & Rep. Melvin Faulkner  
NYS Assembly Member Latrice Walker 54<sup>th</sup> AD.....Rep. Michelle Wilkes

**Councilmember Inez Barron** – expressed greetings to Board Members, community and thanked community members that supported her and the Assembly Member with their votes to continue leading the community. CM Barron highlighted a job fair at the PJACC and encouraged the community to take advantage of those opportunities that are present in the community. CM Barron stated that there is an apprenticeship program through the city that will put you through a 3 month training program that upon conclusion places you at a site that pays minimum \$15 per hour for 18 months. CM asked for community members to contact her office because she did not have all of the information with her and to speak with her Rep. Anita Fischer. CM Barron then proceeded to provide an update on the close Rikers progress. CM Barron expressed that young people, specifically 16 and 17 year olds, are supposed to be sent to better settings at Crossroads and Horizons in the Bronx with the closing of Rikers. All interested persons who have a GED or High School diploma at minimum can apply to be a Youth Development Specialist and to work with the 16 and 17 year olds. In closing, CM Barron stated that we've complained about the way people have been treated by others and here is an opportunity with a starting salary of \$42,000 to care for our young people the way they should be treated. East NY Family Academy is now co-located for the next three years due to the demolition and construction of a brand new High School opening in 2021 for the students. CM Barron closed with the renovations of several parks in the community; Linden (Sonny Carson) Park, Cypress Playground, Lion's Pride Playground, and Success Gardens. CM explained that her office has made great progress with 721 Van Siclen, a cooperative building in the district which included getting the city to forgive \$300,000 of debt.

**Assembly Member Charles Barron** – explained how proud he is of the community due to the increased voter turnout from 6,000 to 14,000 residents. AM Barron recognized that the political turmoil at the Federal level as the impetus for the increase, specifically the President because people are fed-up. AM presented the awareness when voting in the general election because there are 3 referendums are going to be on the back of the ballot. The first is a Campaign Finance change, the second is a Civic Engagement Commission creation, and lastly term limits for Community Board Members. Board Members need to be aware of this because it will affect the membership of the board. AM Barron expressed his reservations about the Vital Brooklyn and elaborated on the affordability of the housing connected to 888 Fountain Avenue. The development is affordable and AM is fighting for the developers to be Black people. In closing AM Barron expressed a need for community involvement. Community members need to join an organization that is doing something that you can agree with. East New York needs to get involved! On the legislative side of things AM Barron presented his Specialized High School bill and how it would change admissions for specialized high schools to have multiple measures for

acceptance. Another bill that will be introduced next session is the Reparations bill. AM Barron spoke about the legacy of slavery in New York and more specifically in East New York. A study should be conducted on what is owed to the descendants of these historic atrocities and the Reparations Bill will put that in place.

Chairman Mitchell encouraged community members to get acquainted with the elected officials and representatives and acknowledged those in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda: Board Member Wilfredo Florentino  
Seconded: Board Member Vincent Riggins

Voice Vote:                      All in Favor: 31                      Opposed: 0                      Abstentions: 0

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve June's Minutes: Board Member Miguel Feliciano  
Seconded: Board Member Angus Fischer

Voice Vote:                      All in Favor: 31                      Opposed: 0                      Abstentions: 0

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairman Mitchell explained the changes in committees for the new session. It was expressed that this format will

Land Use & Economic Development Committee – Alice Lowman: In place of Chair Person Viola Plummer presented the one item that came from the committee meeting.

Item #1: Board Member Lowman explained that this item is a returning presentation on the site 461 Alabama Avenue. The item, 461 Alabama, came to the committee for a pre-approval in June, but now the ULURP process has started and this officially starts the timetable. The developer, CB Emmanuel Company, was also in attendance if there were any questions from the Board Members. Board Member Lowman explained that the committee agreed to reissue an updated letter of support for the project.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

A copy of the District Manager's report was distributed and is on file at the District Office.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A copy of the Board Chairman's report was distributed and is on file at the District Office.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Alice Lowman expressed the need for Board Members to come to the meeting and remain for the duration.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Mitchell acknowledged the great progress of the Community Board.

## **AJOURNMENT**

September's General Board meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.