

HOUSING AND BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETING

APRIL 2ND, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Jose Velez
Gail Grandison
Carol Reneau
Milcah Ann Holmes-Thomas
Symone Sylvester
CK Price
Trisha L
Robyn
Jeff S
Kim Morman
Rodrick Daley

Ann H
C. Roberts
Raul
Jackee and Marina
Hazel Martinez
Eduardo Cameron
Ayanna G
Rhonda N. Cambridge Phillip
Taylor
Dawn Pankey
Mark

Called In

3472****84
9176****44
3474****20

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Carol Reneau, Chair of the Housing and Block Association Committee. Dr. Reneau welcomed everyone and give a recap of the March 5th meeting where Ms. Allyson Martinez and Ms. Joan Erskine from Brooklyn Level Up shared information on how to get off the tax lien sale.

She reported, there are currently 1100 properties in CB 17 and CB 18 on the list.

Additionally, information was shared regarding available housing in marginalized communities. Marginalized groups who have had a hard time getting their properties due to redlining, suburbanization and many other issues just to name a few. There was a list of available housing. The housing are in community board 17, some are in Queens, one or two are in Harlem. The information was shared so people who are looking for residences can apply through Neighborhood Housing Services, East Flatbush Development Corporation etc. There are many community organizations who can help.

Dr. Reneau said the application process can be a little cumbersome for people to complete from time to time, however, the committee will be partnering with NHS.

She also announced a real estate and property management conference will be held at Medger Evers College in May from 10:00 A.M. to 03:00 p.m. Information will be emailed to those interested. The information will also be published in the Community Board newsletter.

The committee will be collaborating on a housing resource fair with NHS as well. This will be at Brooklyn College on 7 June, which is a Saturday from ten to three. There will be lots of information shared during the event. whether you're a property owner, or looking to own a property, it is extremely beneficial.

Approval of meeting minutes – Ms. Symone Sylvester made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5th 2025 and second by Dawn Pankey

Dr. Reneau introduced the first guest speaker Mr. Jose Velez.Sr. CPD Representative from HPD to give an update on the grant received from Congresswoman Clark for the purpose of a Shower bus. She said there is a need for the bus in the community and Mr. Valez will guide the Board through the process.

Mr. Jose Velez greeted everyone. He said he works for the federal government, and the Systems Grant management which will be used to oversee the project and spend down the money and assist with executing of the contract. He said he wants to hear what the Board needs.

The funds the Congress person provided was through a special initiative funding program,

- Jose Velez spoke about the shower bus grant and the need for support services for unhoused individuals.
- The community project funding program is designed to connect political funding with the community.
- Municipal agencies and for-profit ventures can apply for the program directly through their Congress person.
- The role of Jose Velez is to help the organization spend the money and ensure proper use.
- The shower bus project will require further discussion and planning by the community board.
- Discuss and iron out details about partnering with existing shower buses for the new shower bus initiative
- Jose Velez will send the guides for the technical system and the EVI program to the grantee
- Most importantly, the Board need to work on opening a bank account

There were questions regarding a guide for the talking points and whether or not vendors are needed for the operation of the bus.

Interested parties were asked to send an email and/or contact the Board's office.

Dr. Reneau introduced Ms. Milcah Ann Holmes from the Department of Buildings. She stated there were several complaints regarding constructions in the community, workers working on Sundays and infringing on other properties.

- The Department of Buildings representative provided information on construction regulations and how to file complaints.
- Property owner with multiple violations and a stop work order, and how to address them.
- Importance of making 311 complaints and notifying community board or elected office for action.
- Department of Buildings is an enforcement agency for building codes, zoning rules, and safety.
- Property damage from construction sites requires filing a 311 complaint and providing evidence.
- Inspections are conducted to determine the extent of the damage and potential violations.
- Failure to rectify the damage can lead to legal action and court involvement.
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Action items

- Share the list of available housing with the community
- Email and include in the newsletter information about the real estate and property management conference on May 2nd
- Collaborating with NHS for a housing resource fair at Brooklyn College on June 7th
- The grantee must start reading the guides and familiarize themselves with the information provided for the Shower Bus.
- After approval of the action plan, the project will be shifted to headquarters for further technical support
- Determine the time frame for using the funding and communicate it to the board members.

- Send a copy of the proposal to Jose Velez for review
- File a 311 complaint regarding construction work on Sundays and notify the community board and elected officials
- Make a 311 complaint and email the 311 number to the community board or elected office for any issues with a property
- Encourage homeowners to attend homeowners nights or contact the Department of Buildings for assistance with permits or resolving violations
- Discuss the possibility of scheduling a meeting specifically for block associations with Miss Thomas and Miss Fraser
- Newly onboard staff will cover weekend events and tabling activities.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. New Business – None

There being no new business to discuss, Dr. Reneau thanked all presenters for attending the meeting. She also thanked the community residents for their input and adjourned the meeting.