

BKCB17 General Meeting

December , 2022

Start - 7:07 pm

Adjourned - 10:

Online/WebEx

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<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Rodrick Daley	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	General Board Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Rodrick Daley	<b>Note Taker:</b>	Tamara Thomas
<b>Timekeeper:</b>	Dion Quamina		

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Attendees:

Please read: December 2022 Agenda,

Please bring:

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### ***Minutes***

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**Agenda Item:** Approval of Minutes      **Presenter:** All Attendees

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

Did not meet quorum.

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**Agenda Item:** Roll Call      **Presenter:** Tamara Thomas

**Discussion:**

Needs one more person to obtain quorum – 21 people present.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Roll Call.

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**Agenda Item:** Chairperson Report      **Presenter:** Rodrick Daley

**Discussion:**

1. The District Manager and Personnel Chairs will provide some updates on staffing.

2. In the process of hiring a new assistant district manager we got some upsets in the process; we had no quorum. Rescheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> 2023-finalized interview, 3 candidates.
3. The By-Laws committee met a few times. The By-Laws Chair will be updating on the suggested amendments.
4. I met **Lois, Keith Bray** from the Department of Transportation and our Transportation Chair, Mr. Quamina regarding the initiative to increase “bike lanes”. CB17 is available to work with some components of the bike lanes; two fare zone community. Mr. Quamina will update on those initiatives. Follow up meeting to be scheduled.
5. Interested in joining the community board, please note that application is due by February 14, 2023. Please be reminded that if you are up for reappointment, you must fill out the application for next year. Don’t be left out in the cold! Please continue to visit the Borough President website, reach out to me or our District Manager Fraser for any information.
6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair will be covering the attendance issues. I pled with you, please show up for the meetings. Volunteer-Yes, however you signed on and accepted the position with the importance of attendance. Borough Hall is paying attention too attendance-as we have been returning to “normalcy”.
7. The holiday party was very nice.
8. In January I will be updating on the removal process as it pertains to the board; for us to reach quorum.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Chairperson’s report.

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**Agenda item:** District Manager’s Report    **Presenter:** Sherif Fraser, District Manager

**Discussion:**

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the District Manager’s report.

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**Agenda Item:** Budget Report                      **Presenter:** Asshur Cunningham, Chair

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Budget report.

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**Agenda Item:** Commerce Report                      **Presenter:** June Persaud, Chair

**Discussion:**

- Three (3) applications this month and one (1) has showed up.

- Legacy Lounge, located at 1308 Utica Avenue/Avenue D & Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, new applicant is applying for a permit of a full liquor license.

#### Q&A

Would you be serving any type of food or cocktails.

Serving chicken wings, finger foods, nachos and cheese.

#### Conclusions:

Thus concludes the Commerce Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Transportation Report      **Presenter:** Dion Quamina, Chair

#### Discussion:

- Meeting last week Tuesday with the D.o.T. Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, Council Member Louis, District Manager chair concerning the bike expansion program. We have come to a mutual agreement on the "bike lane expansion program". CB17 is a tier one investment area so therefore priority is given to our community with infrastructure improvements. A five (5) years plan with a budget of \$900 million. The bike networks took a step back because of proposed locations. In 2023 we will review their new locations to have discussions and do studies. Chairperson and Council Member Louis made suggestions for suitable locations.
- No follow up with the "Car Share Program". A letter was sent out signed by the chairperson and me, all elected officials were copied, Council Member Joseph had a meeting with the D.o.T, still waiting on updates.
- Next meeting Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> will be a transportation forum with invited quest, 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct, D.o.T, Uber for seniors, HRA, Fair fares, Vital Brooklyn, etc.
- Utica Avenue Co Naming Committee presentation on renaming Utica Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Avenue H – Guyana Avenue. They will be doing a presentation tonight.

#### Conclusions:

Thus concludes the Transportation Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Parks & Beautification Report      **Presenter:** Martin Mark, Brooklyn Parks Commissioner; Rodneyse Bichotte; Farah Louis; DDC

#### Discussion:

- **Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center:** a pool, a full gym, learning kitchen, running tract, basketball, green roofing gardening, wellness, media lab, and youth and seniors programs. \$141 million granted for this project through the work of our elected officials. It is going to be the **biggest and best recreation center in the city** because it is in CB17 in Brooklyn.
- The Department of Design and Construction have assembled a team after 10 years with the engineering design group, McKissack & McKissack and Lend Lease.

- Member Rashad wants to honor **Dr. Roy Hastick**, founder and CEO of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc. (CACCI) who was a rock behind this project. District 45-**Farah Louis** for her vision, hard work and making this project possible.
- Invitation to any MWBE in the neighborhood that is qualified please contact the department.

Presenters: Arthur Liu, Architect at Studio Gang Architects, Lend Lease-Construction Management (Design Build contract), Elizabeth Kennedy-Landscape Architect and Talisha Sandville-Associate Architect.

Elizabeth Kennedy: Appearance of a two-story building but is actually, three stories above grade and one story below grade.

Talisha Sainville: Planned site is Foster Avenue off Nostrand Avenue, close to the B44 and 2 and 5 trains, walking distance to Flatbush junction. Demographics of 40,000 people it is strategically placed to fit the needs of the community.

#### Q&A

**Ms. Belcher's** comments about DDC bureaucracy moving things through without the community involvement. If groundbreaking is next week the CB17 did not receive an invitation.

**Mr. Lewis** confirms that this project is breaking ground the third quarter of 2023. He wants the community involved especially with businesses doing installation, etc. on the building where you feel a sense of accomplishing something in your community.

**Patrick Broner, Lend Lease-Design Builder:** A procurement process begins in 2023 and the design completion will occur summer 2023. Construction starts currently planned in June 2023. Construction completion anticipated 2025. A 30% goal for MWBE

**Bomi Kim, VP of MWBE Services for McKissack and McKissack:** Looking to see how do we make sure that the bid packages the construction the opportunities coming out of the project are the right size financial and project scope for the available MWBEs in the community and available in New York City.

Ms. Belcher questioned the percentage of MWBEs to be 50/50, not 30/70%

Ms. Martinez asked if they were going to work with SBS to help people to get certified so that they can apply for some of these positions in the project.

**Deputy Commission Nelson of Parks and Recreation-**we partner with community groups; Eileen Dalton is the chief of recreation of Brooklyn. Check the parks website for career opportunities.

It will not be synthetic turf landscaping. There will be plants, grass, beautifully landscaped setting.

**Christy Germain DDC Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs:** To the 1<sup>st</sup> board member that mentioned about WMBEs and local community residents' participation, please note that the office has been working very hard behind the scenes to make sure that you are aware it is not forgotten. The awards are based on best value as opposed to the lowest bidder with collaboration between the designer and contractor. Coordination with the school, permit holders to keep everyone in the loop with the preliminary work.

**Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte:** I wanted to respond to Ms. Martinez’s question. You are speaking to the Chair of MWBE for the State of New York. I push for economic equity for people of color and women to get their fair share and it’s been a fight. *Racism and sexism is real and it’s alive.* Our voices are loud and clear, moving forward to ensure that people in this community are involved with the project. To gain 50% we need many sub-contractors on this project.

Follow up early spring return to CB17 with PDC.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Parks & Beautification Chair’s report.

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**Agenda Item:** Youth & Education Report    **Presenter:** Gail Grandison, Chair

**Discussion:**

- We need space to accommodate 100 people to host the “Spelling Bee” event.
- Detective Barry, former 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct, One Police Plaza is doing a “Clothing & Toys Drive” for adults, kids; it also involves the asylum seekers.
- 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct Youth Programs presentation is this Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December from 11:00am to 3:00pm at PS 268, 133 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street-ask for Detective Barry

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Youth & Education Chair’s report.

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**Agenda Item:** Re-Zoning Report                      **Presenter:** JL James Chair

**Discussion:**

- In January the Re-Zoning committee is going to be making a concerted effort to move forward.
- No meeting is scheduled for this month.
- We did a walkthrough of the community and I encourage all to check out your blocks to see what can be done for improvements. Whether up-zone or down-zone; your help is needed in this process.
- Call me at 718-346-3600. Our community needs to be rezoned as soon as possible.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Re-Zoning Chair’s report.

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**Agenda Item:** CAB Committee                      **Presenter:** Janice Reid, Brookdale CAB

**Discussion:**

- One Brooklyn Health which comprises of three hospitals, Interfaith, Kingsbrook and Brookdale had cyber security incident on November 19<sup>th</sup> that caused a major network

disruption within the system. It was reported to New York State, the hospitals have had to return to paper documentation. Work has been ongoing to restore the systems. Patients care have not been negatively affected by the incident. There is an ongoing investigation regarding the disruption.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Brookdale CAB Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Public Safety Report      **Presenter:** Jessica Welch, Chair  
**Absent**

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Public Safety Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Personnel Report      **Presenter:** Rose Graham, Chair

**Discussion:**

- A special meeting to conduct the final round of interviews for the position of Assistant District Manager and a notification will be sent out to the board members.
- There is no need to request a temporary staff for the office; one of the office personnel is scheduled to return to work tomorrow.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Personnel Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Communications Report      **Presenter:** Tamara Thomas, Chair

**Discussion:**

- I yield the floor.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Communications Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** Block Associations Report      **Presenter:** Natalie Ferguson, Chair

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Block Associations Chair's report.

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**Agenda item:** Land Use Report                      **Presenter:**

**Discussion:**

- Next meeting is on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7:00pm, usually start time 7:30pm.
- There will be a presentation in opposition to the storage facility on 5381 Kings Highway, interested in the conversation on the opposite end, please join us.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Land Use Chair's report.

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**Agenda item:** Sanitation    **Presenter:** Dr. C. Reneau - No report

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Sanitation Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** By-Laws Committee                      **Presenter:** James, Chair

**Discussion:**

- Our first recommendation is to delete the current board member attendance requirements and replace it by saying, "in-person attendance at regular and special board meetings is required. Upon a board member missing four (4) meetings of the board, whether consecutive or not, steps shall be taken by the first vice chair within two (2) weeks of the members fourth absence to terminate the board membership, for cause, by first providing written notice to the board member upon notification within two (2) weeks. The member may submit a written appeal to the chairperson to be deliberated and voted upon at the next scheduled executive committee meeting.
- Second recommendation for amendments is for elections. Annual elections cause push backs of topics which never get executed on time, such as changes of chairs of committee membership, therefore the By-Laws Committee is proposing that every officer shall serve for two (2) consecutive fiscal years with a term beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> and terminating on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) consecutive fiscal year.
- Looking at the committee's requirement, please reach out to the By-Laws Chair.

Q&A

Mr. Tate agrees that attendance has been a problem, however he questioned the general board no inclusion with voting on the termination of the member.

The Borough President's office guidance is being followed so while the process has started the board member can submit a written appeal to the chair, their reconsideration would be done by the executive committee.

Ms. Fields inquired about the attendance and commitments to special meetings. It is not fair to hold against the person, who may have prior commitments on the day for special meetings, when they had only committed to the general meetings.

Your comments will be taken under consideration at the next By-Laws Committee meeting.

Ms. Stevenson called in to reiterate that part of the responsibility is to be available for the board meetings as well as at least one committee meeting.

An example of the reelection recommendation was noted with an example: Mr. Cunningham could be due to be removed in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year 2023 and still be eligible to serve two terms, what if he is removed, not reappointed how does that work.

In cases where an officer is not reappointed or choose not to reapply then that would have to have a midterm election to cover that vacancy.

Special meetings need to be clarified: A seven (7) days' notice per special meeting; only to address the agenda items; not a full board meeting.

Ms. Marguerite stated that she was on the By-Laws committee, she was not notified that it was reinstated. Told to connect with the District Manager.

## Conclusions:

Thus concludes the By-Laws Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct

**Presenter:** Inspector G.  
Celiba, WebEX

## Discussion:

- Holiday Greetings from the 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct. In attendance: Lieutenant Myrtle, Sergeant Reina, Sergeant Warren
- Shootings are down by 21%; up in overall crime about 17%; 2023 we anticipate that the numbers will be down.
- NCO Sargeant, Special Operations Lieutenant, and Community Affairs officers are in the room.

## Q&A

1096 Rutland Road, the business owner has complained that outside of their business there are people who are dealing; it is affecting the community and stopping the people from supporting the establishment because they feel unsafe. Is anything being done at that address if so, are we going to be notified regarding the outcome.



Met with the individual at the last community council meeting last week, we are working with them. There are laws to follow-do it properly and do it safely.

The Lotus Lounge located at Schenectady/East 48<sup>th</sup> Street, operating illegally, is a nuisance to the local residents and they do not have a legal liquor license.

Secretary Thomas asked about if there has been changes in handling Orders of Protection. 72-year-old victim of domestic abuse who had to flee her home when the order of protection was violated twice. Went to the precinct twice; no arrest has been made.

I do not want to communicate this information over the network, please speak with one of my officers in the room.

To answer your question, the process did not change. If someone violates the order of protection the complaint is made and then it goes up to our detective squad, our detective then does the investigation.

Ms. Marguerite asks about Lotus Lounge past arrests of three (3), which qualifies filing a nuisance abatement and then filing a petition to close the venue. Response not very transparent, directed to Sergeant Reina in the room to transfer contact information.

### **Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the 67<sup>th</sup> report.

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**Agenda Item:** Public Library

**Presenter:** Danette Riker, Library  
Manager-East Flatbush  
branch

### **Discussion:**

- Celebrated 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Did a survey of the most borrowed items from the library. "Where the Wild Things are" was the number 1 spot.
- Volunteers are always needed at the library-help children between the ages 5 – 11 improve their reading and comprehension skills. If interested, please call 718-230-2406
- Virtual 15-weeks, 18 hours each week, intensive medical billing and e-records certification training class at the Library in partnership with the Adult Learning Center, Grand Army Plaza and SUNY Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center, February to May 2023, Monday through Friday from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Please call 718-622-4460.

### **Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Public Library report.

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**Agenda Item:** Community Related

**Presenter:** Keith Watkins  
II,  
Chairperson-  
Africa Futures

**Discussion:**

- Non-Profit initiative start-up tenant unions, e-urban farming, recycling plastic and plastic in the bloodstream. Body-cameras initiative.
- Will be referred to Social Services Committee or Public Safety.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the community related reports.

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**Agenda Item:** Community Related      **Presenter:** George Hutchinson, Ex.  
Chair-Race for Excellence

**Discussion:**

- A mentoring program that uses 0-scale electric control cars to teach MS age children skills.
- Looking for new venue to start January 2023, presently using Tropical Breeze on Utica Avenue. Meet once a month on Saturday from 12:00noon to 4:00pm. After-school program paid by a grant from Kevin Parker's office. Website: [www.race4excellence.org](http://www.race4excellence.org)

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

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**Agenda Item:** Assembly District 42      **Presenter:** Rodneyse Bichotte,  
Assembly Member

**Discussion:**

- Thanksgiving distribution of 600 turkeys; thanks to all who participated.
- Toy Drive was excellent; thanks to everyone who supported this effort.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:** 40<sup>th</sup> Council District      **Presenter:** Rita Joseph, Council  
Member

**Discussion:**

- Holiday greetings to the Board at large.
- She is giving her support to the CB17; still have toys for distribution.

- Thank you for all the work.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the report.

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**Agenda Item:** 45<sup>th</sup> Council District      **Presenter:** Farah Louis, Council Member

**Discussion:**

- Thank you to CB17 for continued partnership with the 45<sup>th</sup> Council District whether in housing issues, public safety, or youth programming.
- Tonight's blueprint presentation by the DDC and Parks showing Chisholm Recreation Center.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the 45<sup>th</sup> Council District report.

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**Agenda Item:** Utica Avenue Co-Naming Committee      **Presenter:** Dion Quamina, Transportation Chair; Mr. Richmond, Mr. Arjun

**Discussion:**

- Presentation on the importance and impact of the Guyanese community in Brooklyn the Utica Avenue co-naming committee ask to have Utica Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Avenue H to be renamed to Guyana Avenue.
- **Mr. Arjun** noted the life and times of the late Shirley Chisholm embodies this affinity, this great woman whose father was Guyanese, her mother Barbadian; first black woman to be elected to the United States Congress-represented the 12<sup>th</sup> congressional district from 1969-1983; the first black woman to serve on the powerful Rules Committee of Congress; First African American to seek presidential nomination. Wesley McDonald Holder, Dean of Brooklyn politics in the '60s, '70s and '80s and others.
- **Mr. James Richmond**, the Guyanese community has contributed to the social cultural and religious stability and fabric of Brooklyn in and around Utica Avenue via houses of worship, homes, the Lions Club organization and many other businesses.
- 20 pages of signatures from residents along Utica Avenue, as well as support from 11 local elected officials-Assembly Member Cunningham, Congressman Jeffries and Senator Kevin Parker to name a few.

Q&A

Ms. James asks why singling out countries what about other islands; we are dividing the Caribbean Islands, not the best thing to do.

A proposal was brought to the board where all various areas of the district were assigned names; it is not in the best interest of the entire community.

Mr. Richmond responded that all islands are going to be looked at by the Co-Naming Committee.

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Utica Avenue Co-Naming Committee report.

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**Agenda Item:** Legislative Report      **Presenter:** Daniel Haradi, Council Member Farah Louis office

**Discussion:**

- Want to acknowledge Rodrick Daley, Chair of CB17 and everyone else for the wonderful celebration last Friday Holiday Party. God Squad, Flatbush Development Corporation, Elite Learner and all the volunteers present that made it happen.
- Our office thanks CB17 for hosting a community thank you event two weeks ago where we met and greeted board members to discuss issues in the community.
- Two bills have passed the law that council member co-sponsored. It will reach the Major's desk. Jobs needs with accommodations and disabilities.
- Met with other partners of the board including D.o.T.
- Re-zoning: actively engaged with the process. We also want to remind the board that Land Use division of New York City Council needs to be actively engaged with the re-zoning work taking place. We are looking forward to continuing our work and preserving the architectural cultural integrity of the community board.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Legislative report.

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**Agenda Item:**      **Presenter:** Mr. Robertson,

**Discussion:**

- Getting ready to go to Albany to represent our constituent and support organizations.
- Working hard to bring resources back to our community.
- Office is located at 903 Utica Avenue (Church and Snyder), Brooklyn, New York.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Chair's report.

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**Agenda Item:**

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Assembly District 43 - Brian  
Cunningham

**Presenter:** Debbie Lewis, Chief of  
Staff

**Discussion:**

- Thank the board for this meeting tonight. Very informative and thanks the Assembly Member Rodney, and Council Member Farah Lewis for all the work she has done.
- Assembly Member Brian Cunningham sends his greetings to all and wishes all a safe and happy holiday season and new year.
- Quick legislative update: Returning to Albany tomorrow to vote in the legislative session for 2023 which officially starts on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- A toy giveaway with Kings County Hospital this past week and today at 4:00pm on Flatbush and Church Avenue we did a toy/coats/food giveaway.
- Actively working with the 150 asylum seekers giving out coats on a weekly basis.
- Contact office at 719-771-3105, located at 249 Empire Boulevard on the corner of Rogers Avenue.

Q&A

**Conclusions:**

Thus concludes the Assembly District report.

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New Business

A representative from the Mosque bringing complaints about the illegal happenings around their Mosque located 64 East 98 Street and Sutter Avenue. People are afraid to walk in the neighborhood, drugs and shootings. Have made complaints to the precinct, it seems like nothing is being done. Afraid to enter the subway station.

Mr. Daley advised that he would follow up with the precinct and get back to him.