

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
MAY 21TH, 2024**

ATTENDANCE:

Ozni Lewis
Cheryl Saunders
Patrick Agard
Ivor
Brie DaCosta
Adele
Fatima
Sonia Clarke
Community Board 17
Alex Ifill
Lisa Lonuzzi

Marguerite Vigliante
June Persaud
Det Skinner
Hazel Martinez
Jonnelle Howard
Jat
Hazel Martinez
Lenna Fendison
Jonnelle Howard
Jibrill Morris

The community has a significant sanitation problem on Utica Avenue between Clarkson and Church, with garbage causing concerns about rodents and the environment, and previous attempts to address the issue have been ineffective, prompting suggestions for direct action such as demonstrations or media involvement to demand solutions from officials.

- There is a significant sanitation problem in the community, particularly on Utica Avenue between Clarkson and Church.
 - The garbage on the streets and in the bins is causing concerns about rodents and the overall environment.
 - Previous attempts to address the issue with sanitation have been ineffective, with little action taken.
 - There is a need for more direct action, such as demonstrations or media involvement, to demand respect and solutions from officials.
 - The speaker, KS, went to the sanitation department and was told that they don't handle certain issues because they are considered private property.
 - KS suggested using social media platforms like Twitter or Instagram to bring attention to the issue and potentially get a response from officials.
 - Vanessa Quashie suggested taking elected officials on a community walkthrough to show them the cleanliness issues in the area.
 - The meeting participants express concern about the amount of garbage and dumping in their community.
 - They discussed the need to change the mindset and culture of the people in the community to address this issue.
 - Suggestions are made to hold meetings with agencies and elected officials to address the problem.
 - The participants also mention specific locations where garbage is a problem, such as a Dollar General store and a truck on 2nd Street.
 - Michael Hill plans to reach out to elected officials and provide an update on their response in the next meeting.
 - Michael Hill requests Jat to send an email with a follow-up request to the sanitation email address.
- Action items
- Organize a demonstration or media event to bring attention to the sanitation issues in the community.
 - Take a picture of the flat screen TV with the big back sitting outside for two years and post it on Twitter or Instagram

- Reach out to the mayor's office to inquire about the legality of posting pictures on social media regarding sanitation issues
- Write a letter to the sanitation commissioner documenting complaints and lack of action from local sanitation boards
- Reach out to Miss Brazer to inquire about district manager cabinet meetings and if they are still being held
- Monitor the Dollar General on Farragut Road for improvements in their garbage preparation and report any issues to Vanessa Quashie
- Contact the elected officials mentioned in the meeting to discuss the sanitation issues and possible solutions

Michael Hill to send an email to the sanitation email address requesting a follow-up on reaching out to elected officials.

Motion to adjourn – Sonia Clarke
Second - Marguerite Vigliante