

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**  
**Health and Social Services Committee Meeting Minutes**

September 1, 2022  
Meeting ID: 845 4081 7100

**Attendance (Board Members):** Francisca Leopold, Committee Chair; Mayna Legoute; Milford Prewitt

**Attendance (Community Resident Members):** Karimah Griffin; Kayla Williams; Reyana McKenzie; Cecilia Yamplosky

**Absent (Board Members):** Cheryl Wright

**Absent (Community Resident Members):** None

**Guests:** Heloise de Baun; Alexandra Cameron

**CB9 Staff:** Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

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**I. Call to Order**

- a. Chair Leopold called the meeting together at 7:10 p.m.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. **Kayla Williams** lives at Flatbush and Maple. She is returning home after graduating from Stanford University in California, where she has lived the past few years. She studied political science and data science and is eager to learn as much as she can about politics and organizing. She works at a foundation but is also involved with friends in a non-profit start-up that mentors public school kids. “Investing in the youth of our community” is what she is about. She sees her HSS membership as a learning experience that will help her learn “all I can about the systems that brought us here” and ways to challenge them.
- b. **Heloise de Baun** is a medical student who lives in Long Island but works at CAMBA. She wants to fight the opioid epidemic and wants the committee to consider creating a program that trains residents how to use Narcan. Narcan is one of two brand names for Naloxone, a prescribed nasal spray for treating narcotic overdose in an emergency.
- c. **Cecilla Yamplosky** lives on Clarkson Avenue between Rogers and Nostrand. A project manager, Yamplosky grew up in Harlem but moved here after she married. Her husband grew up here. She said she “loves the community and is excited” to be part of CB9.

- d. **Karimah Griffin** has served on the HSS committee for three years. She studied public health at SUNY Downstate and Brooklyn College. In her words: “My interest is in community health and health promotion and basically helping the community to live a healthier life in whatever way I can.” She also runs diabetes and general health information programs.
- e. **Reyana McKenzie** is a Guyanese native who has lived in Brooklyn for the past 13 years. She lives on Clarkson between Rogers and Bedford and works at the NYC Health Dept. She studied public health at SUNY Downstate and graduated in 2018. She’s here on behalf of her community and wants to examine “all of the social determinants” that pose a challenge to the neighborhood not enjoying better health. McKenzie is also president of the Brooklyn Bridge Rotary Club, a social services organization that tackles nutrition and food insecurity.
- f. **Mayna Legoute** is a two-year veteran of CB9 and a resident of Prospect Lefferts Gardens. Previously she served on the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee. She is interested in health and is an avid runner.
- g. **Alexandra Cameron** is a visitor from Prospect Heights who wanted to know more about the committee.
- h. **Milford Prewitt** is a retired business reporter who specialized in the food, wine and restaurant industries for 18 years. He was in the news business for 30 years and continues to freelance. He has edited the Prospect Lefferts Gardens Echo for 12 years and served on the board of the Lefferts Manor Association for four years. He lives on Sterling Street between Washington and Bedford. Having contracted Parkinson’s Disease, he wants to use his health committee tenure and affliction to compel more businesses and retail establishments to become more compliant with the city’s handicap access laws. “By helping others, I help myself,” he said.
- i. **Assistant District Manager Mia Hilton** is a lifelong member of the district, a parent whose child attends district schools, and has worked for CB9 since 2017. She added that she was “excited by what lies ahead for the committee.”
- j. **HSS Committee Chairperson and 2nd Vice-chair of CB9 Francisca Leopold** dreaded the idea of heading the health committee six years ago when she was named chairperson. But after traveling through the neighborhood and learning of the myriad of health woes the district faces, she came ‘to love’ the assignment and was grateful that so many hardworking and dedicated people with experience in health care were drawn to the committee. But she added this year will challenge the committee’s stamina and commitment. Unmet health needs and services for the district’s growing senior citizen base, diabetes, mental health issues, HIV, coronary disease and more will require the committee to be even stronger. “I’m really excited by this year.”

### III. New Business

- a. Discussion of past projects/Identified health related challenges ahead
- b. Brainstorm projects that the committee could tackle in the coming quarter

### IV. Presentation

- a. **Heloise de Baun** - gave a presentation that broadly outlined a program to stem overdoses to narcotics, specifically opioids and fentanyl. Noting that 100,000 people die every year from fentanyl (an opioid) addiction – many of whom could be saved with a nasal spray called Narcan – de Baun proposed that the committee team-up with other community organizations – like CAMBA – to train people how to use Narcan. de Baun explained that when someone experiences an opioid addiction - which can also be found in cocaine and Xanax and other street drugs – Narcan contains Naloxone which works to reverse the effects of the drugs. Training can be done over Zoom and the spray mailed to those who want to get involved, she added.
  - i. Leopold supported the plan and encouraged fellow committee members to think about organizations the HSS committee could align with to do the training. She added that final approval would have to go thru the CB9 board. But she liked the idea. de Baun can be reached at Hmd2126@columbia.edu. Or 609-651-3145.

**V. Open Discussion**

- a. Prewitt proposed doing a survey to determine how many retail storefronts, restaurant facades and other businesses are out of compliance with the city’s handicapped access laws and why. Prewitt admitted that personal self-interest prompted this research. He has Parkinson’s Disease, an incurable neuro-muscular disorder that makes walking, going up and down a staircase, maintaining balance and speaking without slurring or stuttering is difficult. The disease gets worse with age. He said his heart was broken when he learned that one of his favorite restaurants in the district was out of compliance, having a 4-inch slab of concrete at the entrance. Leopold speculated that business owners who are out of compliance probably don’t know they are out of code. But she encouraged Prewitt to do the survey. She also encouraged Prewitt to communicate with the Transportation Committee to talk to the MTA to discuss bus stops and subway stations that are non-compliant.

**VI. Adjourned**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

**Respectfully submitted by,  
Milford Prewitt  
September 20, 2022**