

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Housing Committee Meeting

June 14, 2023
Meeting ID: 816 1514 4779

Attendance (Board Members): Beverly Newsome – Committee Chair

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Diane Sheppard, Janice Grannum, Jay Sorid

Absent (Board Members): Unella Rhone-Perry, Lorianne Wolseley

Absent (Community Resident Members): Leslie Farrar, Diane Wheelless-Sheppard

Guests: Kareem Martinn (**Breaking Ground**) Noly Renelus, Theresa Westerdahl (**CB9**), Zlati Mochkin (**CB9**)

Agency Representatives: Khalid J. Jemmott, Community Associate

I. Call to order: Welcome/Introduction

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Beverly Newsome

II. Presentation: Kareem Martin, Breaking Ground: Presentation on CITYHEPS opportunities

- a. Mission
 - i. Breaking Ground’s mission is to strengthen individualism families and communities by developing and sustaining exceptional supportive and affordable housing as well as programs for homeless and other vulnerable New York
- b. Support Service Partners
 - i. The following organizations provide individual tailored case management services and link to health, mental health, education, employment, and recreational resources i.e., Entertainment Community Fund, Bronxworks, Center for Urban Community Services, The Door, Services for The Underserved, United Services, Inc.
 - ii. Breaking Ground is a city agency funded through City organizations
- c. Programming
 - i. Transitional Housing- temporary housing, along with intensive onsite case management , provides individuals in the most precarious circumstances with the space, time, and assistance they need to work toward securing permanent affordable housing

- ii. CityFEPS Rent Supplement Program – help eligible families with children at risk of entry to shelter and those already in shelter to permanent housing, those that have been evicted of facing eviction
 - DV – Domestic Violence
 - Rent Arrears – legal phrase used to describe being late on rent
 - Services for people on public housing seeking housing services
 - Couples with children, anyone experiencing street homelessness within the section Breaking Ground services is eligible for their program
- iii. Quality of life skills (Natural and living environment, overall experience of life, material living conditions, Education, Health)
 - Gearing individuals with these skills to curb trends of recidivism, also to keep their apartments, paying rent and prevent instances of crime
 - View of fighting homelessness through holistic approach
- iv. Business can contact Breaking Ground when they see suspected homelessness offer services
- v. Services are offered to help those individuals get started on the process of receiving a voucher if they do not have one
- vi. Areas that are serviced with increased police presences decrease the foot traffic of individuals not involved with these housing resources, also increases safety confidence in these locations
 - New York Police Department
 - Breaking Ground (Outreach specialist)
- i. Individuals experiencing homeless have the right to refuse services, individuals have liberty to leave the facilities if they choose to
- ii. The Salvation Army is not a partner with this Breaking Ground programming
- iii. Breaking Ground does not administrate background checks but the organizations in partnership do

III. Old Business

- a. N/A

IV. New Business

- a. Breaking Ground Funders
 - ii. Organizations like Starbucks and Bank of America fund human services groups to stop homelessness in front of their business

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:39 PM

Submitted by Khalid J. Jemmott