



# 43rd Assembly District Vital Brooklyn Community Proposal



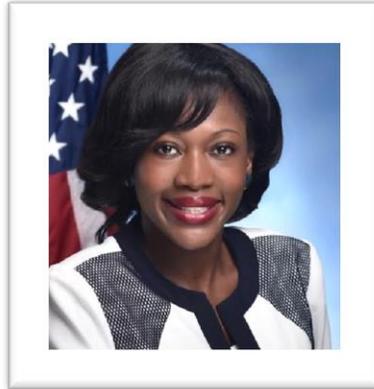
**Submitted To:**

Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York State

**Submitted By:**

Diana C. Richardson, Member of Assembly, 43rd Assembly District

January 10, 2018



Dear New York State Representatives and Local Community Residents:

This letter serves as an official token of my appreciation for your continuous efforts throughout the process of producing the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Vital Brooklyn Community Proposal. The aforementioned content presents a local view on how funds should be implemented in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District through a comprehensive break-down of community needs.

Your contributions will be of lasting service to the neighborhood. Additionally, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your continuous support and cooperation throughout this process. Thank you once again for your commitment to serving as an integral component to the development of a viable solution for the enhancement of our community.

We anticipate forward movement on this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

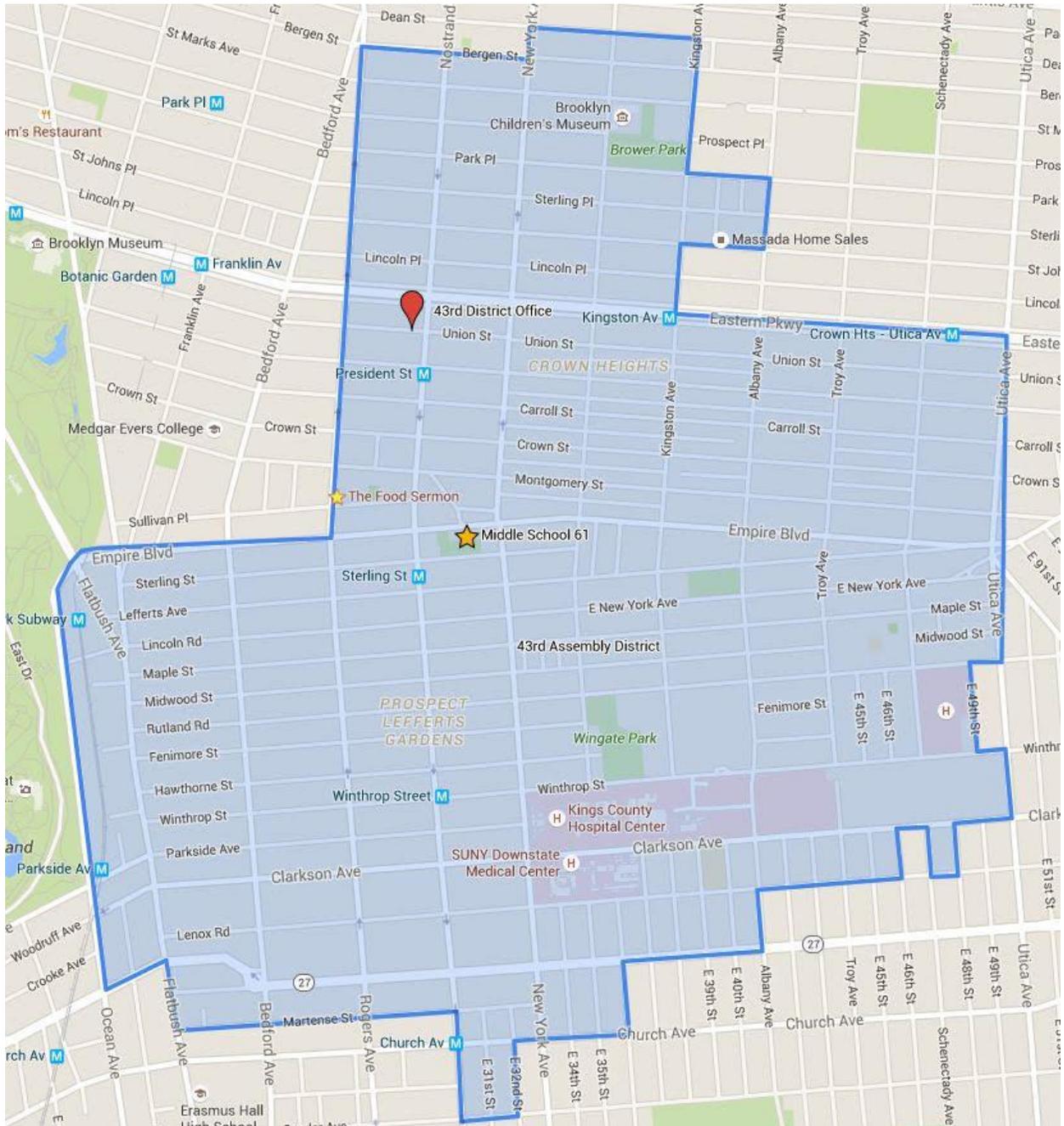
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana C. Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Diana C. Richardson  
Member of Assembly  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

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# MAP OF 43<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



# 43<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT CENSUS DATA

## Assembly District 43 (2015), New York

<b>Total Population</b>	127,997	<b>Male</b>	58,485	45.7%	<b>Race</b>		
		<b>Female</b>	69,512	54.3%	<b>Hispanic</b>	13,048 10.1%	
<b>Families</b>	27,579	<b>Age</b>			<b>Non-Hispanic</b>		
<b>Households(HH)</b>	47,611	<b>Under5</b>	9,577	7.4%	<b>White</b>	24,923 19.4%	
<b>Avg HH Income</b>	\$ 57,837	<b>5 - 17</b>	19,202	15.0%	<b>Black</b>	83,603 65.3%	
<b>Housing Units</b>		<b>18 - 29</b>	25,865	20.2%	<b>American Indian</b>	100 0.0%	
<b>Owner occupied</b>	8,108	<b>30 - 44</b>	27,321	21.3%	<b>Asian</b>	2,916 2.2%	
<b>Renter</b>	39,503	<b>45 -59</b>	22,661	17.7%	<b>Pacific Island/Other</b>	1,012 0.7%	
		<b>60 - 64</b>	6,688	5.2%	<b>Two or more Races</b>	2,395 1.8%	
		<b>65plus</b>	16,683	13.0%			
<b>Total Renters</b>	39,503	<b>Poverty</b> 26,688 (Persons)			<b>Citizenship</b>		
<b>No Cash Rent</b>	1,105 2.8%	<b>By Gender</b>			<b>Native Born</b>	73,478 57.4%	
<b>Cash Rent</b>	38,398 97.2%	<b>Male</b>	11,772	44.1%	<b>Naturalized</b>	31,271 24.4%	
<b>Average Cash Rent</b>	\$1,074	<b>Female</b>	14,916	55.9%	<b>Non-Citizen</b>	23,248 18.2%	
<b>Household Income</b>		<b>By Age</b>			<b>Household Language</b> <small>HH with limited English</small>		
<b>Under \$10K</b>	5,303 11.1%	<b>Under5</b>	1,623	6.1%	<b>English</b>	32,615	
<b>\$10K - \$15K</b>	3,484 7.3%	<b>5-17</b>	4,787	17.9%	<b>Spanish</b>	5,029 1,090	
<b>\$15K - \$25K</b>	5,685 11.9%	<b>18-44</b>	10,033	37.6%	<b>Indo European</b>	6,966 1,729	
<b>\$25K - \$35K</b>	5,491 11.5%	<b>45-64</b>	5,915	22.2%	<b>Asian</b>	952 467	
<b>\$35K - \$50K</b>	6,906 14.5%	<b>Household Heating Sources</b>			<b>Year Home was Built</b>		
<b>\$50K - \$75K</b>	9,065 19.0%	<b>Electric</b>	2,371	5.0%	<b>2010- Present</b>	224	
<b>\$75K - \$100K</b>	5,094 10.6%	<b>Natural Gas</b>	34,992	73.5%	<b>2000- 2009</b>	1,483	
<b>\$100K - \$125K</b>	2,724 5.7%	<b>LP Gas</b>	606	1.3%	<b>1990-1999</b>	735	
<b>\$125K - \$150K</b>	1,348 2.8%	<b>Oil</b>	8,732	18.3%	<b>1980-1989</b>	1,263	
<b>\$150K - \$200K</b>	1,348 2.8%	<b>Coal</b>	0	0.0%	<b>1970-1979</b>	1,390	
<b>\$200K plus</b>	1,163 2.4%	<b>Wood</b>	12	0.0%	<b>1960-1969</b>	3,232	
<b>Income Sources</b>		<b>Solar</b>	13	0.0%	<b>1950-1959</b>	3,527	
Recipients	Avg \$	<b>Other</b>	466	1.0%	<b>1940-1949</b>	4,407	
<b>Social Security</b>	12,178	\$14,262	<b>None</b>	419	0.9%	<b>Before 1940</b>	36,180
<b>Sup. Security Income</b>	3,356	\$8,889					
<b>Public Assistance</b>	2,386	\$3,362					
<b>Food Stamps(HH)</b>	9,874						

New York State Assembly  
Office Automation Data Processing  
Data : American Community Survey 2011-2015

### Assembly District 43 (2015), New York

School Enrollment (Total Pop 3+)	Educational Attainment by HH Type			Veteran Educational Attainment					
<b>Nursery School</b>	2,258	6.7%	Owner Occ	Renter Occ	<b>Veterans</b>	85,721			
<b>Kindegarden</b>	2,103	6.2%	<b>No HS Dipoma</b>	799	6,613	<b>No HS Dipoma</b>	2,150	2.5%	
<b>Grade 1- 4</b>	5,976	17.7%	<b>HS Diploma</b>	1,543	10,633	<b>HS Diploma</b>	158	0.1%	
<b>Grade 5- 8</b>	5,658	16.7%	<b>Some College/AA</b>	2,163	10,902	<b>Some College/AA</b>	692	0.8%	
<b>Grade 9- 12</b>	6,212	18.4%	<b>College Degree</b>	3,603	11,355	<b>College Degree</b>	870	1.0%	
<b>College</b>	8,946	26.5%							
<b>Grad School</b>	2,530	7.5%	<b>Ancestry</b>						
<b>Education Level (Persons 25+)</b>			<b>Albanian</b>	206	0.1%	<b>Italian</b>	1,737	1.3%	
<b>Less than 9th grade</b>	6,494	7.5%	<b>Arab</b>	791	0.6%	<b>Irish</b>	2,084	1.6%	
<b>Some high school</b>	7,908	9.2%	<b>Bulgarian</b>	8	0.0%	<b>Lithuanian</b>	62	0.0%	
<b>High school graduate</b>	24,096	28.0%	<b>Canadian</b>	225	0.1%	<b>Norwegian</b>	160	0.1%	
<b>Some college, no degree</b>	17,318	20.1%	<b>Croatian</b>	27	0.0%	<b>Polish</b>	1,743	1.3%	
<b>Associate degree</b>	5,911	6.8%	<b>Czech</b>	56	0.0%	<b>Russian</b>	2,159	1.6%	
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	15,185	17.7%	<b>Danish</b>	49	0.0%	<b>Romanian</b>	126	0.0%	
<b>Master's degree</b>	7,010	8.1%	<b>Dutch</b>	193	0.1%	<b>Slavic</b>	50	0.0%	
<b>Prof. degree</b>	1,306	1.5%	<b>English</b>	1,420	1.1%	<b>Scottish</b>	409	0.3%	
<b>Phd</b>	547	0.6%	<b>French</b>	618	0.4%	<b>Swedish</b>	185	0.1%	
			<b>German</b>	1,909	1.4%	<b>Liberian</b>	10	0.0%	
			<b>Greek</b>	93	0.0%	<b>Subsaharan</b>	4,756	3.7%	
			<b>Guyanese</b>	4,196	3.2%	<b>Nigerian</b>	400	0.3%	
			<b>Hungarian</b>	284	0.2%	<b>Somalian</b>	29	0.0%	
			<b>Israel</b>	520	0.4%	<b>Westindian</b>	40,476	31.6%	
			<b>Hispanic Origin</b>			<b>Asian Origin</b>			
<b>Women 15-50 who had a birth in Last 12 months</b>			<b>Mexican</b>	1,594	12.2%	<b>Asian Indian</b>	741	25.4%	
<b>Women 15- 50</b>			34,862	<b>Puerto Rican</b>	3,064	23.4%	<b>Bangladeshi</b>	111	3.8%
<b>Women Who Gave Birth</b>			1,990	<b>Cuban</b>	222	1.7%	<b>Chinese</b>	989	33.9%
<b>Married</b>			1,239	<b>Dominican</b>	2,661	20.3%	<b>Filipino</b>	316	10.8%
<b>Unmarried</b>			751	<b>Guatemalan</b>	240	1.8%	<b>Japanese</b>	270	9.2%
<b>With Partner</b>			204	<b>Honduran</b>	489	3.7%	<b>Korean</b>	290	9.9%
<b>With Other</b>			547	<b>Panamanian</b>	2,716	20.8%	<b>Korean</b>	290	9.9%
			<b>Salvadoran</b>	158	1.2%	<b>Pakistani</b>	24	0.8%	
			<b>Colombian</b>	199	1.5%	<b>Taiwanese</b>	32	1.0%	
			<b>Ecuadorian</b>	196	1.5%	<b>Thai</b>	26	0.8%	
			<b>Peruvian</b>	43	0.3%	<b>Vietnamese</b>	41	1.4%	
			<b>Other S. Amer</b>	401	3.0%	<b>Other Asian</b>	172	5.8%	
			<b>Other C. Amer</b>	323	2.4%				
			<b>Other Hispanic</b>	742	5.6%				

New York State Assembly  
Office Automation Data Processing  
Data : American Community Survey 2011-2015

## Assembly District 43 (2015), New York

Means of Transportation to Work (Persons 16+ Employed)	Travel Time to Work (Persons 16+ Employed)	Average travel Time to Work:	42.6
<b>Car, Truck or Van</b> 9,348   16.9%	<b>Less than 5 min</b> 532   1.0%	<b>30 to 34 min</b> 8,777   16.5%	
<b>Alone</b> 7,836	<b>5 to 9 min</b> 1,420   2.6%	<b>35 to 39 min</b> 1,625   3.0%	
<b>Carpool</b> 1,512	<b>10 to 14 min</b> 2,163   4.0%	<b>40 to 44 min</b> 4,946   9.3%	
<b>Public Trans</b> 38,012   68.8%	<b>15 to 19 min</b> 2,581   4.8%	<b>45 to 59 min</b> 12,070   22.7%	
<b>Bus</b> 5,868	<b>20 to 24 min</b> 3,936   7.4%	<b>60 to 89 min</b> 9,965   18.7%	
<b>Streetcar</b> 204	<b>25 to 29 min</b> 1,464   2.7%	<b>90 or more min</b> 3,649   6.8%	
<b>Subway</b> 31,163			
<b>Railroad</b> 708			
<b>Ferry</b> 69			
<b>Taxi</b> 314			
<b>Motorcycle</b> 38   0.1%			
<b>Bike</b> 687   1.2%			
<b>Walk</b> 4,539   8.2%			
<b>Other means</b> 190   0.3%			
<b>Work at Home</b> 2,154   3.9%			
<b>Sex by Employment Status</b>			
	<b>Male 16+</b>	<b>Female 16+</b>	
	45,431	56,426	
<b>In Labor Force</b>	29,656   65.2%	34,707   61.5%	
<b>Armed Forces</b>	35	19	
<b>Civ. Employed</b>	25,659	28,471	
<b>Unemployed</b>	3,962	3,680	
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	15,775   34.7%	18,847   33.4%	
<b>Industry</b> (Employed persons 16+)			
<b>Agriculture,forestry,fishing and mining</b>	14	<b>Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services</b>	5,761
<b>Construction</b>	2,378	<b>Educational services, and health care and social assistance</b>	19,899
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,412	<b>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</b>	4,423
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	848	<b>Other Services</b>	3,682
<b>Retail trade</b>	5,098	<b>Public Administration</b>	2,481
<b>Transportation and warehousing, and utilities</b>	3,387	<b>Military</b>	54
<b>Information Technology</b>	2,206		
<b>Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing</b>	3,639		

**New York State Assembly**  
 Office Automation Data Processing  
 Data : American Community Survey 2011-2015

## Part I

### VOCABULARY BOX

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**NAMI:** Neighborhood Area Median Income specific to the neighborhood census data.

**AMI:** Area Media Income serves as a metric that determines the cost of city housing.

**CSA:** Community Supported Agriculture connects the producer and consumers within the food system more closely by allowing the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm or group of farms.

**CBO:** Community Based Organizations play a pivotal role in educating students and providing a series of activities at the community level aimed at bringing about desired improvement in the social well-being of individuals, groups and neighborhoods.

**ACELO:** Adult and Continuing Education Learning Opportunities aid professionals seeking advancement and up-to-date certification as well as people exploring new careers and occupations and credentialing their skills for the workforce.

**Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** CBCH South would serve as a central destination, and one stop shop for workforce development, job resources, job training, community development, education enhancement, cultural development, education enhancement, energy conservation initiatives, literacy and college preparation initiatives.

**Youth:** This group is described as ages 14-26.

**Senior:** This group is characterized as ages 65 and above.

**Very Low-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$10,000 - \$19,000, or families of four earning less than \$27,000.

**Low-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$27,000.01 – \$40,000 or families of four earning \$54,000

**Middle-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$40,000.01 - \$55,000 or families of four earning \$72,000

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### WHAT IS VITAL BROOKLYN?

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The Vital Brooklyn Initiative is a \$1.4 billion program initially proposed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to break down walls and to aid Central Brooklyn in 8 key areas including Open Space and Recreation, Healthy Food, Comprehensive Education & Youth Development, Economic Development, and Job Creation, Community-based Violence Prevention, Community-based Healthcare, Affordable Housing and Resiliency. Vital Brooklyn includes “\$500 million” for the development of 3,000 new affordable housing units.

This projected revitalization plan is said to dedicate \$700 million to healthcare, adding approximately 36 ambulatory care centers; \$1.2 million to education; \$800,000 to violence prevention; and \$700,000 to job creation, creating 7,600 new jobs and training and 1,200 people in construction work. This plan also includes the proposal of 3,000 new affordable housing units and five acres of green/park space.

Subsequently, the office of NYS Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson has gone through the unique stage of approaching the community in order to ensure that expressed values they deemed most important were included in the plan, which will greatly affect the areas of Crown Heights, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, East Flatbush and Wingate.

*In addition, the office of New York State Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson held public meetings in regards to the Vital Brooklyn Initiative as follows:*

**April 22, 2017:** Public Civic Minded Meeting introducing the Vital Brooklyn Initiative.

**May 1, 2017:** Correspondence to overlapping City Council Member to discuss Vital Brooklyn Planning Guide.

**May 17, 2017:** Community Board 17 Meeting: Vital Brooklyn Updates by Public Letter

**May 19, 2017:** Vital Brooklyn Advisory Board Meeting, Pt 1

**May 20, 2017:** Public Civic Minded Meeting expounding upon the Vital Brooklyn Initiative

**May 26, 2017:** Vital Brooklyn Advisory Board Meeting, Pt 2

**October 28, 2017:** Public Civic Minded Meeting: Vital Brooklyn Update

**December 16, 2017:** Public Civic Minded Meeting: Vital Brooklyn Update

**December 21, 2017:** Community Board 9 Meeting: Vital Brooklyn Update

## **43<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT VITAL BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

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Stan King, Director of the Madison Square Garden Boys & Girls Club

Hassan Bakiriddin 2017 – Trisha Ocona 2018, Chairperson of Housing, Brooklyn Community Board 17

Barrington Barrett, Chairperson, Brooklyn Community Board 17

Reverend Dr. Wenton Fyne, Beulah Church of the Nazarene

Reverend Eddie Alleyne, St Gabriel's Episcopal Church

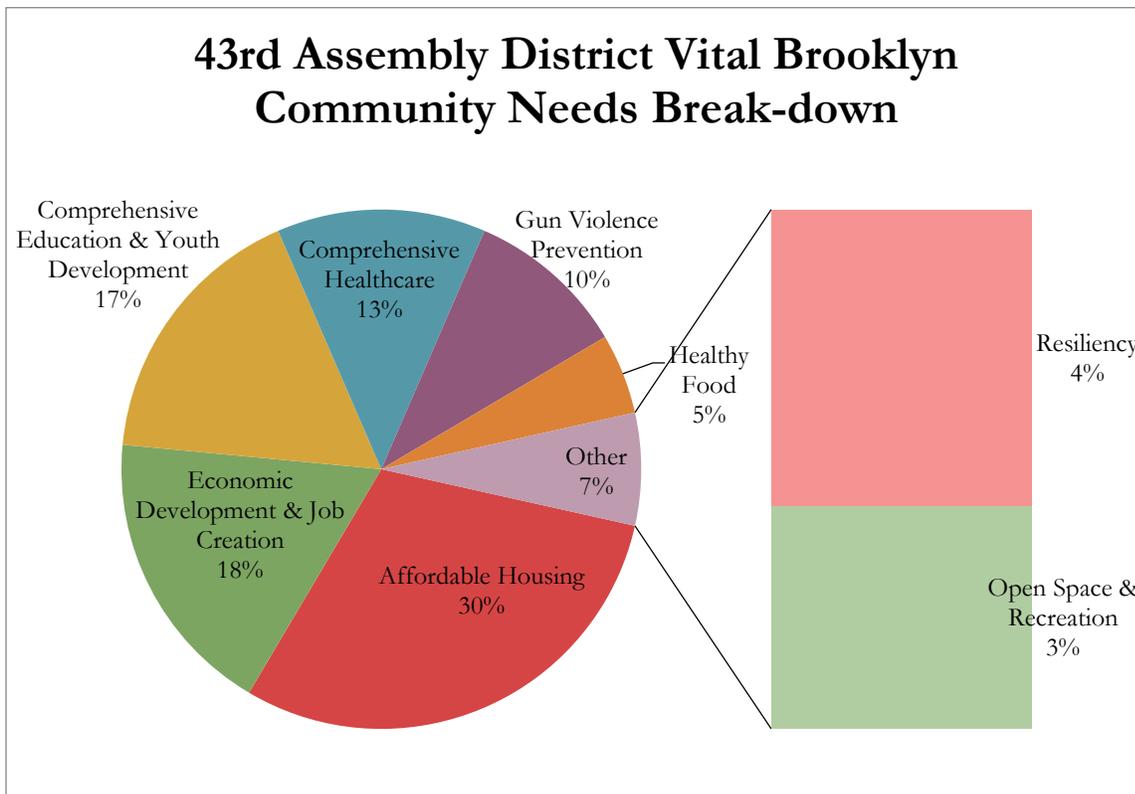
Dr. Esmerelda Simmons, Esq., Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Law and Justice at Medgar Evers College

Beverly Newsome, Chairperson of the Housing Committee, Brooklyn Community Board 9

Donna Mossman Crown Heights Tenants Union, Founding Member

## VITAL BROOKLYN NEEDS BREAK-DOWN

Individuals and families of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District currently face a multitude of issues which are highlighted in the chart below. Additionally, you will find raw data encompassing many issues that individuals and families in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District face. Subsequently, the chart below highlights a raw breakdown of the needs that affect our community including Affordable Housing at 30%, Economic Development & Job Creation at 18 %, Comprehensive Education & Youth Development at 17%, Comprehensive Healthcare at 13%/Anti-Gun Violence Initiatives at 10%, Healthy Food at 5%, Resiliency at 4 %, Open Space 3%.



## Part II

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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The lack of Affordable Housing is something that affects thousands of residents in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District. Many constituents are currently being priced out/displaced from their homes, where some are faced with homelessness, and struggling to find affordable places to live. It is vital that we find more space to accommodate the decreasing amount of available low-income units to assist those in need.

### Community Needs

- Increased Affordable Housing is needed with units in accordance with the Neighborhood Area Media Income (NAMI) to match the Area Media Income (AMI) of surrounding areas in which developments are being built.
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest concentration of evictions in Kings County and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest concentration of rent stabilized units in the City of New York. Therefore, there is a strong need for housing to be built, in order to accommodate the loss of homes in the community. In essence, the newly built housing should mirror the rate of evictions in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub will be used to focus on supporting the development of predominately, affordable and innovative mixed income housing to create high opportunities for residents of the Central Brooklyn community. Implementation of this will incorporate, hundreds of affordable residential units and encourage first time home-ownership for the working poor.
- The Neighborhood Area Income (NAMI) of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District is about \$45,000, therefore, the inclusion of residential units at the 30% AMI range is imperative, which reflects the salary of a one-head household income at minimum wage. Additionally, AMI's should reflect a range of incomes, including "higher income" professionals currently residing in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, in order to scale affordability, with the understanding that the community includes high professionals who require affordable housing at 70% AMI and above, but the bulk of the housing must be reserved for 50% AMI range and below.

Please reference the following chart which reflects community requests for affordability:

### New York City Income Limits by Household Size

Source: New York City Housing Preservation & Development 2017

Family Size	30% of AMI	40% of AMI	50% of AMI	60% of AMI	70% of AMI	80% of AMI
1	\$20,040	\$26,720	\$33,400	\$40,080	\$46,760	\$53,440
2	\$22,920	\$30,560	\$38,200	\$45,840	\$53,480	\$61,120
3	\$25,770	\$34,360	\$42,950	\$51,540	\$60,130	\$68,720
4	\$28,620	\$38,160	\$47,700	\$57,240	\$66,780	\$76,320
5	\$30,930	\$41,240	\$51,550	\$61,860	\$72,170	\$82,480

- The community recognizes that the current Area Media Income (AMI) is not a true reflection of the neighborhood because it includes earnings from Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties, with higher median incomes.
  - Increased senior housing opportunities (for AMI's at reasonable levels) which provide supportive aid and rental assistance for low income elderly.
  - Supporting affordability and vulnerable community members, as well as encouraging an active lifestyle will also be a priority of new housing developments.
    - The affordability mix may include:
      - **Very Low-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$10,000 - \$19,000, or families of four earning less than \$27,000.
      - **Low-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$27,000.01 – \$40,000 or families of four earning \$54,000.
      - **Middle-income Housing:** Subsidized housing serving individuals earning \$40,000.01 - \$55,000 or families of four earning \$72,000.
- 
- It is vital that vulnerable groups are not mixed together, when considering the implementation of new affordable housing. (i.e. – individuals with mental illness should not reside with the senior population). It is vital that all vulnerable populations be provided the onsite services and support that they need in the housing developed for successful community tenure.
  - There must be housing developed for seniors of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District who value their independence, but need assistance with activities of daily living (including transportation and medication reminders) to serve as an alternative to nursing home care for as long as possible.
  - Local health institutions conveyed the inability to retain staff because of the lack of affordable housing in Central Brooklyn.
  - Assisted Living is needed for older adults who value their independence, but require some assistance with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, transportation and medication reminders.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE 43<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT, THROUGH VITAL BROOKLYN

The following are affordable housing development opportunities in the community.

- SUNY Downstate Site 1, **324 Winthrop Street, Brooklyn 11225**
  - Approximately 200 units  
The Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South) will be situated here at 15,000-30,000 square feet. This site will be a mixed income site which will include deeply low income and workforce housing at 30% Area Media Income, 40% Area Media Income, 50% Area Media Income, 60 % of Area Media Income.
- SUNY Downstate Site 2, **760 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn 11226**
  - Approximately 140 units  
This site will be a mixed income site which will include deeply low income and workforce housing, including healthcare and social services workforce at 30% Area Media Income, 40% Area Media Income, 50% Area Media Income, 60 % of Area Media Income. Potential site for affordable home ownership opportunities.

## Part III

- SUNY Downstate Student Center, **825 New York Avenue, Brooklyn 11203**
  - Approximately 140 units  
This site will include work force at 50% Area Media Income, 60% Area Media Income, 70% Area Media Income, and 80% Area Media Income.
- Medgar Evers Preparatory School, **1186 Carroll St, Brooklyn 11225**
  - Approximately 150 units  
*The community requests that no housing be built at this site.* Seek to investigate ways to incorporate Medgar Evers Preparatory School youth with recreational opportunities, as this institution includes no gymnasium.
- Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, **681 Clarkson Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11203**
  - Approximately 300 units  
This site will include vulnerable populations. A discussion surrounding this site is important to ensure vulnerable groups are not mixed together, when considering the implementation of new affordable housing. (i.e. – individuals with mental illness should not reside with the senior population). The Kingsboro parcel should include a significant number of units for Central Brooklyn residents/patients who experience multiple hospitalizations and/or long stays in the acute care safety net hospitals (H+H and OBHS) because they lack affordable and supportive housing.
- Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Hospital: Brooklyn Hospital Site 2, **808 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203**
  - Approximately 200 units  
This site will include Assisted Living, deep, low income housing, and low income senior housing. At least 25% of the 200 units should be prioritized for current Rutland/One Brooklyn Health (OBHS) nursing home residents who can live in the community with supportive services. In addition, 25% of the units should be prioritized by the OBHS 1199 and NYSNA workforce with incomes ranging from 30%-80% AMI. Housing developments on the Kingsbrook campus must include the “build out” of healthcare space, specifically space for the expansion of chronic dialysis services now provided by Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center: Brooklyn Hospital.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOB CREATION

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Economic Development & Job Creation are critical components which drive economic growth in our economy, facilitating an improved quality of life. These elements help to increase consumer spending and provide new employment opportunities for families to meet financial obligations and pour back into the community. It is evident that these actions stimulate economic growth by increasing consumers spending.

Additionally, small businesses are the backbone of the community. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District has experienced an uptick in commercial properties and is faced with a 20% vacancy rate on business strips. The rising costs of real estate coupled with what is displayed in the housing market, cripples small businesses at the local level. In lieu of the aforementioned, it is imperative that we connect new-to-market and existing companies with the resources and partners they need to expand, to create more jobs for the local community.

## Part IV

### Community Needs

- There is a strong need for job creation due to high unemployment rates. According to the October 2017 Report from the New York State Department of Labor, Kings County has the second highest rate of unemployment out of the five boroughs at 5.0%. In lieu of these findings, there is also a need for vocational training and a training center, where financial literacy tools and skilled job training materials can be delivered to the community.
- Economic Development hub that mirrors the structure of Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is needed, which can partner with area residents to improve the quality of life by attracting investments, improving business climates, fostering economic self-sufficiency of families, and enhancing family stability.
- Microenterprise Activities which encompass programs that help individuals maintain their own businesses and maintain financial independence is vital to community improvement.
- Rehabilitation/Revitalization of business strips in the community is vital for areas including Flatbush Avenue, Nostrand Avenue, Rogers Avenue and Utica Avenue.
- Low cost commercial space will allow for businesses and non-profits to flourish.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub must be used to focus on the implementation of employment training and business incubation support where unique assets are developed to attract, create and expand business and job opportunities, ultimately, improving the well-being of community members.
- Find ways to draw connections between the New York State Division of Parole and the New York State Office of Probation in workforce development by incorporating programs which create meaningful projects through a variety of disciplines including the promotion of educational advancement, positive peer relationship development, employment-readiness, job placement, and positive engagement in the community to help avoid recidivism and access practical pathways to a better future.
- Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Opportunities are vital to the enhancement of the economic development therefore, the community requests a minimum of 30 percent of all contracts to go to MWBE's and local procurement when possible.

## COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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Comprehensive Education and Youth Development requires innovative programs to support academic achievement, life skills development, college and career training, civic involvement in addition to physical and emotional development of children and youth. Implementation of elements of this nature help to enhance the incorporation of basic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy, which have a documented positive effect on marginalized populations' incomes.

### Community Needs

- Education Training Center will utilize tools to support education and career enhancement.
- Educational Partnerships between schools, public and private service providers, business and industry, and civic and social service organizations, are vital to education and youth development.

## Part V

- Adult and Continuing Education Learning Opportunities (ACELO) providing formal & information learning opportunities should be available to individuals of all ages.
- Community involvement in schools helps to aid diverse needs due to the greater diversity of people involved. Involvement opportunities should range from participation in ongoing advisory councils to membership on ad hoc task forces and committees.
- Vocational training focuses on practical applications of skills learned, and is generally unconcerned with theory or traditional academic skills. This should be implemented with a specialization in health, tech and green jobs.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub must be used to focus on the implementation of Comprehensive and Educational Youth Development opportunities such as computer training, STEM initiatives, financial literacy programs, and youth job/training opportunities, which will increase achievement and educational attainment.
- The incorporation of youth access to college and career-readiness courses of study with higher institutions of learning, can expand availability of evidence-based pathways and encourage increased opportunities to all youth.
- Inclusion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and Urban Farming programs will support success for those marginalized by the education system.
- Youth Job Training Opportunities will aid youth with a specific emphasis on pipeline for career opportunities in healthcare, the sciences, engineering and more.
- Alternatives to Incarceration Programs are needed specifically for those who have had contact with the criminal justice system, to enable those who are trying to further themselves to become productive members of society.
- Resources for Emotional Development are imperative for youth who suffer from external social issues like homelessness and gun-violence, which often impede on learning.
- There are numerous challenges keeping individuals underserved, underbanked and underemployed, but one core root is lack of financial literacy. Seventy-five percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck and twenty-five percent have no savings at all. Additionally, nearly half of all Millennials have too much debt.
- Leadership Development Training Programs will emphasize problem solving, decision-making, and group-process skills which are essential to community improvement efforts.
- Increase mentorship opportunities for youth development in order to focus career trajectory.

## COMMUNITY BASED HEALTHCARE

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According to the World Health Organization, many of those in urban areas succumb to health challenges related to water, environment, violence and injury, diseases with risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol and more.

### Community Needs

- Based on research, Brooklyn has had the highest rate of death due to diseases like diabetes, so access to good and fresh food regardless of financial status is important.

- In 2016 alone, the New York City Department of Health released health statistics showing that the infant mortality rate in areas like East Flatbush is 6 times that of the Upper East Side and one of the top causes of death has been to cancer in these areas. Subsequently, access to valuable and affordable healthcare is key.

## Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub requires the incorporation of health services into a one stop shop and recreation to physical site. Programming will include resources for individuals of all age ranges that educate and promote internal and external health and wellness.
- **Postpartum Wellness Center:** Data shows that women of color across the US are three and a half times more likely to die in childbirth, subsequently, healthy eating for these groups in addition to health screenings and mental health resources is vital. Breastfeeding and nutrition resources will serve as viable additions to the center.
- **The Men’s Health Lounge** will serve as a safe space for men to come and receive workshop information, social and emotional support groups, screenings and general health information.
- **Teen Health Center:** In the geographical area, there is no space for the teens to positively grow, which offers a well-coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of medical, social, emotional, sexual, educational and nutritional concerns of youth.
- Investments should be made to allow Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center to evolve into a true “Medical Village,” providing a wide array of specialized ambulatory care programs including:
  - A state of the art cancer center with linear accelerator, infusion therapy space for support groups and palliative medicine.
  - A robust ambulatory surgery center including updated patient and family receptions areas, phase 2 recovery rooms and support space.
  - An advance imaging center with equipment upgrades including PET CT to support the cancer center.
  - Repurposing of inpatient medical/surgical units to create a state of the art office suite for primary care, family and adolescent medicine, specialties such as diabetes and treatment center, integrated behavioral health, surgical specialty care and more.
  - Creation of retail pharmacy to support the growing ambulatory care volume and accessibility to residents of the newly created campus housing.
  - Preserve Emergency Department as a 911 receiving facility with expanded capacity.
- **Preservation of Inpatient services on campus and renovation of subacute rehabilitation beds at Kingsbrook.**
  - Geriatric Psychiatry will remain on Kingsbrook campus.
  - Acute inpatient rehabilitation units and brain injury units will be renovated to improve patient experience with 25 inpatient rehab beds and 15 traumatic brain injury beds.
  - The subacute rehab beds in long term care will be renovated to create a modernized 68 bed unit.
- It is requested that Kingsbrook building on the north end of the main campus will be repurposed to create housing for elderly as alternative to current nursing home stays, as well as possible Assisted Living. Additionally, an expanded chronic dialysis center and possible supportive housing could be created for an at-risk population such as patients with chronic kidney disease.
- Greater partnerships with District 17 schools to incorporate free fitness classes, alcohol abstinence, childhood asthma and more to encourage health living for youth.
- Full renovation of the Pierre Toussaint Family Health Center on Eastern Parkway to create urgent care on first floor and modernized with patient centered health center for primary care and HIV specialty.

## Part VI

# COMMUNITY BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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Community Based Violence Prevention tools reduce factors that place youth at risk for perpetrating violence, and promote factors that protect youth at risk for violence, by addressing influences like individuals, relationships, community, and society. In addition, open space provides recreational areas for residents and helps to enhance the environmental quality of communities.

### Community Needs

- Increased investment in community organizations funded through SNUG like Save Our Streets Crown Heights, are necessary to end gun violence by identifying and engaging city youth most at risk of involvement in a shooting through education and community outreach.
- Vocational training programs help curb violence by stimulating economic growth through job training and employment opportunities.
- Adult Continuing Education Learning Opportunity (ACELO) curb gun violence by serving as a focused deterrence.
- Increased positive community and police relations, which has been initiated through the New York City Police Department Neighborhood Coordinating Officers.
- Fair distribution of lighting in the community to deter questionable activity.
- Mediation for Conflict Resolution in efforts to reduce gun-violence and disputes is a crucial means to reaching peaceful and agreed solutions in today's world – on an international, political, or social level.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub requires the incorporation of mediation space to encourage conflict resolution in addition to a gun violence prevention networks with continuity of resources and services. Additionally, collaborative efforts to ensure the New York State Department of Labor and the New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives maintain an annex at the site is imperative.
- Encourage activity of Precinct Community Councils, which illustrate how law enforcement and communities can work together to curb violence in the neighborhood.

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

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Open Space and Recreation areas influence the activeness of individuals through maintenance of outdoor recreational areas while encouraging synergy.

### Community Needs

- Increased space for youth to utilize extracurricular activities.
- Increased space for outdoor rehabilitation and wellness activities for the senior population.

## Part VII

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub requires the incorporation of Open Space and Recreation and the stewardship of this site will encourage production of community events, job fairs, farmers' markets, and other functions open to public health services into a one stop shop and recreation to physical site.
- Implementation of a therapeutic green space at the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center site will serve the community as a community garden.
- All new housing developments built through the Vital Brooklyn initiative should have green rooftops and open space to be used in a creative way to maximize space usage and encourage urban farming.

## HEALTHY FOOD

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Healthy Food is a great foundation for a healthy-functioning body and serves as a positive way to help reduce risks that may occur otherwise. Good nutrition is a vital part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Healthy food combats diseases and boosts energy.

### Community Needs

- Quality, healthy food for fair prices which includes produce, grains, meats, poultry with balanced geographic distribution.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub requires the incorporation of initiatives which tackle serious health disparities that effect low-income communities in Central Brooklyn - such as high rates of obesity, heart disease and diabetes.
- Mobile food markets will serve as an innovative way to tackle the obesity epidemic comes on wheels, while working to solve the lack of nutritious, fresh food around the community.
- Urban farm-to-institution systems encourage healthy food use within the vicinity of the immediate area.
- Incorporation of nutrition programs for youth help the community to better understand the importance of healthy food.
- The implementation of programs like GrowNYC, which consists of educational programs, business support, culinary outreach and environmental leadership to encourage increased community involvement with healthy food initiatives.
- Increase presence of New York State Grown and Certified and Taste NY initiatives, by supporting connections and purchases between New York producers and community stores, restaurants, schools and hospitals.
- Support CBOs that provide education and access to healthy food with capacity-building opportunities.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) connects the producer and consumers within the food system more closely by allowing the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm or group of farms.
- The implementation of a Food RX Program will incorporate a comprehensive medical initiative which integrates defined nutritional intervention instead of pharmaceutical drugs.

## Part VIII

# RESILIENCY

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Choosing resiliency enhances energy infrastructure and serves as a driving force for environmental stability, while encouraging green energy saving initiatives and retaining capital.

### Community Needs

- Improved environmental benefits.
- Safe and Sustainable construction practices.
- Energy efficiency and resource conservation.
- Investment in the development of green and affordable housing.

### Community Requests

- **Central Brooklyn Community Hub (South):** The CBCH South community hub requires the incorporation of initiatives which provide resources for vocational training and green jobs in addition to access to renewable resources. Programing and technical assistance on climate science, disaster preparedness, emerging climate resilience best practices, technologies and policies through energy and solar incentive programs throughout the community.
- Encouragement of use of light bulb exchanges and paper shredding events.
- Solar Fuel Cells: The implementation of solar fuel cells will serve as viable efficiency measures to address New York City's surging power demand.
- Renewable energy resources will address increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns.
- Electricity transmission and distribution systems carry less current and operate less efficiently when ambient air temperatures are higher, and may face increasing risks of physical damage from more intense and frequent storms and wildfires.
- All new construction produced through Vital Brooklyn should adhere to the leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard.
- Grid resilience is increasingly important as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of severe weather.

