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HUS 2307- Community Organizing and Development

Assignment #1

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| **Questions about your community** | **Sources Consulted** |
| 1. What is your home zip code? | My home zip code is 11212 |
| 1. Does your community have a name? If so. What is it? | My community’s name is Brownsville |
| 1. What is the number of your Community Board? Briefly state its purpose. | My Community Board number is 16. Its purpose is to represent the neighborhoods in Brownsville and Ocean hill. Like other boards, Community Board #16 reviews matters pertaining to land use in its district, evaluates the quality and quantity of service delivery in the community, makes recommendations for capital and expense budget priorities, and develops plans for the community's improvement |
| 1. Who is the President of your Community Board? | Bettie Kollock Wallace is the President. |
| 1. Who is the District Manager of your Community Board? | Viola D. Greene-Walker is the District Manager. |
| 1. Who is your current New York City Council Member, what community does she/he serve? what Council committees does she/he serve on? | Inez Barron is the Council Member. She serves the community in the District 42 area. She serves as a Democrat. Ms. Barron has been actively engaged in protesting against civil and human injustices such as segregation, discrimination,  apartheid, exclusion of Africa from the NYC curriculum, police misconduct and environmental racism. |
| 1. Who is your New York State Assembly Member? | Rhoda Jacobs is my New York State Assembly Member. |
| 1. Who is your New York State Senator? | Senator John L. Sampson. |
| 1. Who are your U.S. Senators? | Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer are the U.S Senators. |
| 1. Who is your U.S. Congressional Representative? | Hakeem S. Jeffries and Yvette D. Clarke are my Congressional Representatives. |
| 1. What are the basic demographics of your community (total population, gender, age levels, race/ethnicity, income levels, household sizes, and educational levels). | In 2010, Brownsville's population was 58,300 and the demographics were 76.7% Black or African American, 17% Hispanic/Latino, 2.6% White, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander and 3.7% described themselves as other. 29.9% of the population were High School graduates and 8.4% had a Bachelor's degree or higher. As of 2008, the median household income was $15,978. There were a total of 28,298 housing units in Brownsville |
| 1. What is the health status of your community? | 32% were diagnosed with high blood pressure, 26% high cholesterol, 23% have AIDS, 12% are alcohol dependents, 29% are obese, 12% have diabetes, 5% experience psychological distress, 25% have different types of cancers, and 5% have asthma. |
| 1. What are the crime statistics for your community? | In 2013 there was a total of 8,311 index crimes compared to 2012 the crime decreased there were 8,810. |
| 1. Briefly describe the educational/cultural resources (ex: schools, libraries, theaters, museums, movie houses, etc.) of your community. | There are 10 schools in total in Brownsville 3 high schools and the rest are charter schools and elementary, there are no museums in this neighborhood, there are no movie theaters, no movie houses, in the 1910 this neighborhood was known as “Jerusalem of America” because all the Jewish migrated here, then they moved by mid-century, Jews left as African Americans began to move into the area following World War II. The number of blacks in Brownsville doubled between 1940 and 1950, making up 22 percent of Brownsville’s population by 1957. As demographics shifted, Brownsville became the site of both developing racial tensions and new progressive efforts to combat racial injustice and inequality by groups such as the racially integrated Brownsville Boys Club. |
| 1. Briefly describe the recreational resources (parks, sports centers/facilities, public pools, etc.) of your community. | There is 1 pool, 1 gymnasium, 1 indoor rollerblading place, 4 handball courts, 1 computer resource center, 1 dance studio and10 parks. |
| 1. Briefly describe the religious/spiritual institutions of your community. | There are 20 churches and 10 denominations, ◦Catholic: 58.8%  ◦Protestant: 12%  ◦Orthodox: 0.72%  ◦Jewish: 24.4%  ◦Muslim: 3.73% |
| 1. Briefly describe the financial and business institutions in your community (ex: banks, check-cashing businesses, supermarkets, small groceries, real estate agencies, brokerages, travel agencies, clothing stores, drug stores, etc. | 3 banks, 6 check cashing businesses, 10 supermarkets, 2 fish markets, 1 meat market, 30 grocery stores, 10 real estate agencies, 30 travel agencies, 34 clothing stores, and 16 pharmacies. |
| 1. Briefly describe the infrastructure of your community (ex: roads, sidewalk and street pavements, street furniture, street and traffic lighting fixtures, tree care, air quality, buildings, etc. | They just recently fixed the roads because there was a lot of holes, but the cable company has messed the roads up by putting these large metal objects in the floor, which creates a lot of traffic due to reduced velocity, the traffic lighting are all working fine, there’s enough lighting for the security cameras, there are a lot of projects in this neighborhood and residential buildings, the air quality is horrible because a lot of people smoke in this area, there are a lot of potted plants and trees to maintain some of the pollution out. |
| 1. Based on your research and walkabouts, identify 3 of your community’s strengths and assets: | 1. There are a lot of 24 hour delis. 2. They are building more rent controlled buildings. 3. There are a lot of food stores where you can any variety of food. |
| 1. Based on your research and walkabouts, identify and prioritize 3 issues of concern to you about your community: | 1. There is a lot of gun violence. 2. They have a lot of liquor stores in the neighborhood which creates more drunks and more violence. 3. The air is polluted due to a lot of smokers in the area. |
| 1. Human services ethical standards speak about our profession’s concern for individuals, families, communities, and society. Why should human services professionals care about communities and society? | We as human services need to care about communities and societies because we are here to help the people in our environment overcome any issue the person may be having, and find resources for them to help them overcome them. We need to study the people’s environment in order to understand their characters and their ideas, and why is the reason they act the way they do. A person’s environment has a lot to do with their personality. If a person grows up in a bad environment they adapt to it and consider it normal. We need to do our part and study the person’s community so we could find better resources for them. |