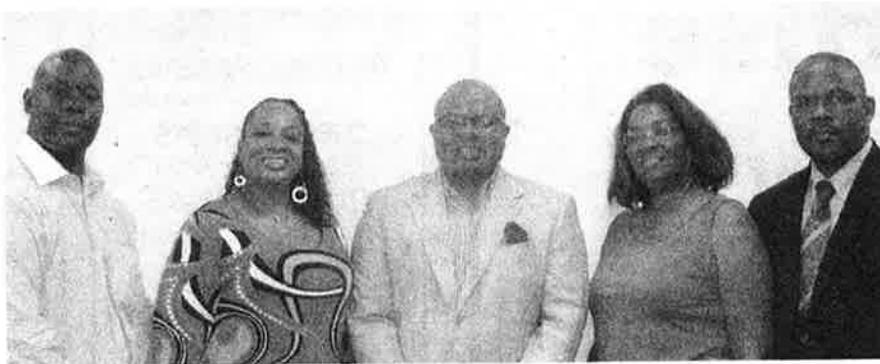


### BRADHURST MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION - BUSINESSES WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY *By Peter Cooper*

On Wednesday, July 27th, 2011 I attended the meeting of the Bradhurst Merchants Association. The room was filled with business owners, entrepreneurs, and community oriented individuals. The vibe was almost tangible enough that I wanted to package the inspiration.

This was the first meeting after the installation of the new board headed by Kenneth Morrison, who was elected as president. Kenneth Morrison has worked in Real Estate and Property Management for most of his life, and in 2008 his business got relocated to 145th and 7th. With an invested interest in the community he set out to create a 145th Street Business Improvement District (BID) which would promote businesses and community development. In his quest of materializing the 145th Street BID he was approached by the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI). HCCI is committed to the complete revitalization of Harlem through economic development and empowerment opportunities. With the help of HCCI, Mr. Morrison along with Victoria Gordon and Horace Gascott gave life to the Bradhurst Merchants Association (BMA). Victoria Gordon (current vice president of BMA) wrote the grant to SBS that provided funding for the start up of BMA and expressed that "... in all of my



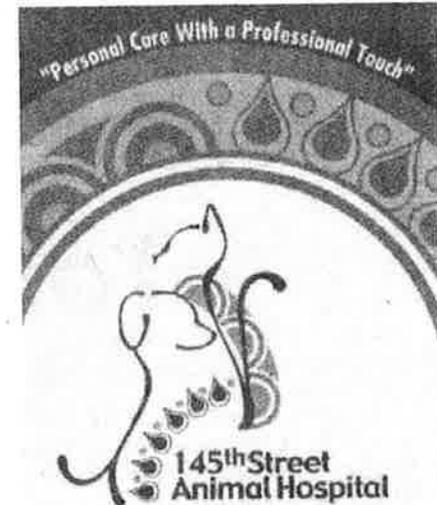
**Bradhurst Merchants Association Board of Directors:** Shown above (l-r) Treasurer, Joseph Fobbs; Vice Presidentm, Victoria Gordon; President, Kenneth Morrison; Secretary, Pat Stevenson; Delegate, Malcolm Punter (Other Delegates not shown above are - Mikki Garcia, Dr.K.Samuels and Horace Gascott.

work life, I have worked in communities like this and the problems remain the same, merchants need assistance and help."

The initial project of BMA was a survey done throughout the Bradhurst community (retail corridor from 145th and Frederick Douglass Ave. to 155th and Frederick Douglass Ave., and from Bradhurst Ave. to Lenox Ave.) This survey concluded that the main issues within the community surrounding businesses were safety, sanitation, and lighting. BMA has worked very hard since its inception in 2008 toward promoting and sustaining the Bradhurst Business District as a unified shopping area, creating a community

among business owners themselves, and addressing the most prominent needs of businesses and community members.

Kenneth Morrison expressed that the biggest issue facing the BMA today is visibility. The community needs to know what they do and also needs to get involved. BMA will be walking in the Percy Sutton Harlem Walk on August 27th and the next meeting will be held on September 28th. Meetings are held the last Wednesday in each month. For more information on other events and for the location of meetings please contact Kenneth Morrison at 212-281-2714.



Dr. Julie R. Butler  
212 - 234 - 3489

[www.harlemvet.com](http://www.harlemvet.com)

454 West 145th Street  
(Bet. Convent & Amsterdam)

[e.info@harlemvet.com](mailto:e.info@harlemvet.com)