

ACROSS THE BOARD

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 39, NO. 10

A Word from the District Manager

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE!

Congratulations to the 77th Precinct, which has led the borough of Brooklyn in crime reduction for the 2017 calendar year!

Citizens Committee for New York City is now accepting applications for their Neighborhood Grants program, which awards grants of up to \$3,000 to neighborhood groups, public school-based groups, and NYCHA tenants associations working to improve quality of life across the city. **The application deadline is January 22, 2018.**

Congratulations to Ms. Ethel Tyus and Ms. Deborah Young of the Crown Heights North Association, who have been honored by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in recognition of their work in the preservation and rejuvenation of New York's historic and cultural treasures. Their commitment to revitalizing the North Crown Heights community through historic preservation has made an important contribution to preserving the historic nature of and rare surviving beauty of local landmarks for the public good.

These grants are an important resource for community groups, particularly in low-income areas. Groups supported carry out projects as varied as community gardening, theatre and fine arts programming, composting, tenant organizing, and much more.

For a grant application and for more information, contact Marina at 212-822-9579 or email mgonzalez@citizensnyc.org.

HEAT SEASON

From now until May 31, 2018, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM, if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Any landlord that fails to adhere to these guidelines should be reported to HPD via 311 immediately.

SECTION 8 WAITING LIST

Managing agents for Section 8 buildings in Brooklyn and the Bronx, A.M.S. Realty Company, has reopened their waiting lists for their housing projects. Interested parties can obtain an application by writing A.M.S Realty Company, 98 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 240-S, Great Neck, NY 11021. Please only mail one application per family. You can request additional applications by calling 516-466-6520, ext 24 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM.

All completed applications must be received by December 20, 2017.



***RENT-REGULATED PROPERTIES
WATCHLIST***

The City Council recently voted unanimously on the “Predatory Equity Bill,” which will create a watch list of rent-regulated buildings where tenants are potentially vulnerable to investors who may want to kick them out. The legislation requires the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to compile a “Speculation Watch List” of rent-regulated properties with sales prices that are unusually high in comparison to similar sales in the area. City officials feel that such transactions could hint that investors seek to raise rents in the buildings by displacing current tenants. HPD will complete the list within the next year and update it quarterly.

The Council also passed a duo of tenant harassment bills. One changes the definition of harassment to include certain construction code violations, such as failure to fix hazardous conditions at a site. The other requires that certain developers get a certificate of no harassment before the Department of Buildings can issue a permit for renovation or demolition work at the property. This is semi-good news for our rent stabilized tenants. However, we must all remember to be vigilant in ensuring that our neighbors, especially vulnerable ones, are not victims of harassment and scams.



NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

National Grid (NG) is trying to improve the way it serves the community. To ensure public safety and service reliability, their crews continually test, inspect, repair, and improve their pipelines and monitor for potential gas leaks. They work

closely with industry and government agencies on a variety of pipeline safety measures.

NG also conducts training and drills with emergency responders to prevent and prepare for natural gas emergencies. These exercises test procedures, logistics, communications, and more. Visit National Grid’s worker safety website for free training materials at www.ngridsafety.com/contractors.

Homeowners and contractors are advised to call 811 at least 48 hours in advance of any digging project. This is required by law in New York State. At no cost to you, New York 811 will notify underground facility owners in the immediate area so the location of pipelines and other facilities can be properly marked prior to excavation, eliminating the chance for damage to underground infrastructure, including gas lines.



FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR ALL

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is pleased to provide free legal services of various types at “The People’s House” at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. The following services are available:

- **Housing Discrimination for Individuals with Disabilities: Second Friday of every month from 10 AM to 1 PM**
- **Foreclosure Intervention and Prevention: Second Wednesday of the month from 2 PM to 5 PM**
- **Housing Matters, Trusts and Estates, Elder Law, and Government Benefits: Second Thursday of the month from 2 PM to 5 PM**
- **Veteran’s Issues (including housing, benefits, VA claims, discharge updates): Every Tuesday from 9 AM to 12 PM.**
- **Domestic Violence: Third Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM**

- **Family Law (including custody, visitation, child support): Wednesdays from 4 PM to 7 PM**

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment for these services. **Appointments are required.**

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### ***FREE LEAD TESTING FOR CHILDREN***

Senator Jesse Hamilton is offering free lead testing for children throughout the months of December and January. Testing will be done at KaMIN Health Crown Heights Urgent Care located at 555 Lefferts Avenue, Brooklyn. Hours are Monday to Friday 8 AM to 10 PM, Saturday from 4 PM to 11 PM, and Sunday from 9 AM to 10 PM.

If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, please consider getting your child tested:

- Do you live in a home built before 1978?
- Have you recently scraped, sanded, or repaired any painted surfaces in your home?
- Have you moved from another country or big city in the past year?
- Does your child have a playmate or sibling that has lead in their blood?

Everyone with a child under the age of 6 should get them tested as young children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead and can suffer permanent health effects, especially in the area of brain development.

For more information, please contact Senator Hamilton’s office at 718-284-4700.

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IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone misuses your social security number (SSN) to

file a false tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. If you become a victim, the IRS is committed to resolving your case as quickly as possible.

First, know the warning signs. You may be unaware that you are a victim of tax-related identity theft until you file your tax return and discover a return was already filed using your SSN. Warning signs include notification that you have filed one or more returns, you owe additional tax, have a refund offset or you have IRS collection actions taken for a year you did not file a return; or IRS records indicate that you received wages from an unknown employer.

Keep vigilant with your identity. Do not share your information with non-reputable entities or organizations, and even then, only if you have to. Do not carry your social security card in your wallet or any document that has your SSN on it unless you absolutely have to. Make sure your virus protection on your smart phone or computer is up-to-date and review your credit report annually to discover any inaccuracies or foreign charges/accounts. You can get a free report from each of the three credit reporting bureaus once a year by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com.

If your SSN is compromised and you know or suspect that you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, take the following steps:

1. Respond immediately to any IRS issued notice. Call the IRS and verify that you are speaking to an actual IRS employee.
2. Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, which can be found at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/14039.pdf. Mail or fax the form according to instructions. If you are responding to an IRS notice, be sure to include a copy of the notice.
3. Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.
4. If you previously contacted the IRS and do not have a resolution to your identity theft

issue, you may call the IRS for specialized assistance at 1-800-905-4490 Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM.



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

What would you spend \$1 million on in your neighborhood? Residents of Prospect Heights and Crown Heights have the opportunity to weigh in on how taxpayer money should be spent in the area. Councilman Robert Cornegy and Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo are once again bringing participatory budgeting to the district. Residents can submit proposals to either councilmember's office from now through February 2018. Projects include capital budget requests to renovate schools, parks and playgrounds, and other capital needs of the community.

Councilwoman Cumbo's office can be reached at 718-260-9191, and Councilman Cornegy's office can be reached at 718-919-0740.



VOLUNTEER HOMEWORK HELPER

Help students in grades 1-8 with their homework assignments by becoming a Volunteer Homework Helper at Brooklyn Public Library!

Do you have a strong commitment to working with children? A minimum of two hours per week during after-school hours (3-6 PM) on weekdays? An ability to make a minimum required commitment of six months? If so, apply now! Complete an application at any neighborhood library or online at www.bklynlibrary.org.



11TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Join Councilwoman Darlene Mealy as she bids farewell to the 41st Council District seat she has

held for the last 12 years as she celebrates her 11th Annual Holiday Party. The Holiday Party will be held on **Friday, December 15, 2017 from 6 PM to 10 PM** at her District Office located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn. For more information, please call the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097.



CIVIC MINDED

Get Civic Minded with Assemblywoman Diana Richardson! Civic Minded is a discussion group that connects constituents, neighborhood associations, tenant associations, block associations, and merchants associations, and allows for open discussions of issues within the assembly district.

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 2 PM – 4 PM** at 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. On the agenda will be a discussion of the Bedford Union Armory Update and looking ahead towards 2018. Call the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105 for more information.



BROWER PARK ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Join Councilman Robert Cornegy, Friends of Brower Park, the Crown Heights North Association, Prospect Place Block Association, St. Marks Avenue Independent Block Association, and Starbucks in the Annual Brower Park Christmas Tree Lighting. The tree lighting will be held on **Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 5 PM to 7 PM** at Brower Park (Kingston Avenue between Park and Prospect Places). Come out and help decorate the tree from 1 PM to 3 PM.

Music and refreshments will be served. For more information, email contactus@friendsofbrowerpark.org.

HANUKKAH MENORAH LIGHTING

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams in partnership with the New York Board of Rabbis, cordially invites you to attend a Hanukkah Menorah Lighting celebrating Hanukkah 5778 on **Monday, December 18, 2017 at 4:30 PM**. The menorah lighting will be held at Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Please RSVP by visiting www.brooklyn-usa.org/hanukkah or by calling 718-802-2704. Kosher food and entertainment will be provided.

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### ***TOWN HALL EVENT WITH SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR CARMEN FARINA***

The District 13 Community Education Council presents a Town Hall Event with Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina. All District 13 parents are urged to attend. The Town Hall will be held on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM** at K056 located at 170 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, 11238. Do not miss this excellent opportunity to discuss and address issues of concerns for District 13.

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FLATFOOT FLATBUSH

Join the North Flatbush Business Improvement District, Porch Stomp, Make Music New York, and the City Stompers for Flatfoot Flatbush! The event will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2017 from 4 PM to 9 PM**. Flatfoot Flatbush is a festive evening of fun and dancing as participants parade down Flatbush Avenue and stop by local businesses to share music and cheer!

Visit www.porchstomp.com for more information.

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### ***WINTER DRIVE EXTRAVAGANZA***

Brooklyn Job Corps is hosting a Winter Drive Extravaganza on **Thursday, December 21, 2017 from 6 PM to 10 PM** at Kinanm Lounge located at 856 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. While most of us are lucky enough to have the materials we need to keep warm when the weather turns cold, there are many that are not as fortunate, and a good number of these individuals are children. As such, Brooklyn Job Corps is accepting donations of children's coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and other winter accessories. Donations are for children ranging in age from newborns to 14 years old. Please make sure items are clean and presentable (no holes, excessive stains, etc.).

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CITY AND STATE HOLIDAY PARTY

Councilman Robert Cornegy and Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright cordially invite all residents to attend their Holiday Party on **Friday, December 22, 2017 from 3 PM to 7 PM** at Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn.

There will be caroling, hot chocolate, food, cheer, photo booth, games, and a holiday wishing well. For more information call either Councilman Cornegy's office at 718-919-0740 or Assemblywoman Wright's office at 718-399-7630.

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### ***HOLIDAY MUSICAL***

Bethel Music Department invites you to a Holiday Musical to celebrate the holiday season! The Musical will be held on **Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 11 AM** at Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist Church located at 457 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-783-3630.

**WOMEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND  
FEMALE OFFICERS OF THE NYPD  
AWARDS CEREMONY**

The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council cordially invites you to join them at an awards ceremony honoring Women Victim Advocates and Female Officers of the NYPD to recognize their outstanding services in the community. The ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7 PM** at 935 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn (between Troy and Albany Avenues).

Honorees are Chief Joanne Jaffe, PO Taisha Skyers, PO Laverne Green, Devorah Halberstam, Tatyana Tomoshenko, and Alla Lisovestsky. For more information or to RSVP, call Batia at 718-771-9000, ext 7722.

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH JOB FAIR AND  
CAREER EXPO**

Assemblyman Walter Mosley is pleased to present the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Job Fair and Career Expo on **Friday, January 26, 2018 from 10 AM to 3 PM** at 55 Hanson Place, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn. You must have valid ID to enter the building. Please note that this event is for youth ages 15 to 24.

Employment opportunities will be available, as will be resume writing workshops, interviewing skills seminars, financial literacy training, and internships and apprenticeships.

For more information, please contact the Assemblyman's office at 718-596-0100.

The scorecard rating for the month of November was **90.6% for streets and 97.0% for sidewalks**. We urge everyone to adhere to the **Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 6 PM to 7 PM daily**. Please clean in front of your properties and 18 inches into the gutter area of

the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep our District clean.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through November 2017.

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 32    | 289  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 11    | 139  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 43    | 428  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 1     | 21   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 274   | 2732 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 329   | 3432 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 662   | 6797 |

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/04/17 through 12/10/17.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2017         | 2016 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 4            | 9    | -55.6 |
| Rape           | 22           | 21   | 4.8   |
| Robbery        | 197          | 240  | -17.9 |
| Felony Assault | 282          | 351  | -19.7 |
| Burglary       | 174          | 188  | -7.4  |
| Grand Larceny  | 348          | 438  | -20.5 |
| GL Auto        | 59           | 81   | -27.2 |

The overall change year-to-date is -18.2 %.

**BROOKLYN WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS**

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations is a trusted non-profit connecting jobless New Yorkers to careers in growing job sectors.

### **Red Hook on the Road**

Trains unemployed individuals for careers as CDL-licensed commercial bus and truck drivers. Call 718-237-4846 for more information.

### **Brooklyn Networks**

Connects people to in-demand careers as low voltage cable installers for data, voice, security, and broadcast cable systems. Call 718-237-2017, ext 149 for more information.

### **Brooklyn Woods**

Trains low-income New Yorkers for careers in manufacturing as woodworkers and fabricators. Call 718-389-3636 for more information.

### **Made in NY Production Assistant Training Program**

Connects underrepresented New Yorkers to careers in TV and film as production assistants. Call 718-237-2017, ext 145 for more information.

### **NYCHA Resident Training Academy**

Prepares qualified public housing residents for careers as NYCHA caretakers. Call 718-237-2017, ext 155 for more information.

For a more detailed explanation of BWI's programs, please visit their website at [www.bwiny.org](http://www.bwiny.org).

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CAMBA "JOBS TO BUILD ON"

Are you unemployed and looking for full time work? The CAMBA sponsored "Jobs to Build On" program can help! The program offers free job placement and career coaching. Job readiness classes, interview preparation, resume update, customized job search services and employer referrals, and financial counseling and other support services are offered.

To participate, you should have a high school diploma or GED at the minimum, be unemployed and seeking full time employment, and have at least 2 years work experience. To

register, call 718-282-0108 or email workforce@camba.org.

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### ***HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM***

Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is now accepting applications for the District Attorney's office High School Internship Program. Applications are being accepted for mid-winter and spring internship sessions. Sessions are from February 20<sup>th</sup> thru February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 and April 2<sup>nd</sup> thru April 6<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Juniors and Seniors attending high school and living in Brooklyn are eligible for the program. Application materials include: high school internship application, recent transcripts, one recommendation letter, resume, and a 300 word essay.

**The deadline to apply is December 22, 2017.** To apply, visit <http://brooklynda.org/internships/application>.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NYPD 911 Operator Exam

The filing period for the NYPD 911 Operator Exam is open from now to December 20, 2017. There is a \$54 filing fee. Starting salary is \$36,611 with full benefits. Promotional exams for career advancement are available. Additional pay is offered for dual language speaking and writing applicants.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/nypd or call 212-732-7848 (212-RECRUIT).

Other City Exams:

Environmental Police Officer (8310)
Police Communications Technician (8311)
School Safety Agent (8312)
Sewage Treatment Worker (8313)



Traffic Enforcement Agent (8316)

Application period for these exams closes December 30th.

For more information on any of these positions, qualifications, or to apply, visit www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Ms. Stacey Sheffey, and Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of December.

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The next Crown Heights North Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 6:45 PM** at St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church located at the corner of St. John's Place and Brooklyn Avenue. The invited speaker is Mr. Rob Field, Interim President and Executive Director of the Weeksville Heritage Center. A holiday meal will be served.

For more information, please contact CHNA, Inc. at 718-774-3834 or email info@crowheightsnorth.org.

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 26, 2017** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

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The next **77th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, January 8, 2018, 2017** at 7:30 PM at Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 810 St. Marks Avenue (between Brooklyn and New York Avenues), Brooklyn.

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The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018** at 7 PM at St. Teresa of Avila RC Church, located at 563 Sterling Place, Brooklyn.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson
Michelle George, Dist. Manager/Editor
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant

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