

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 37, NO. 2

District Manager's Report

New York City is experiencing a blood shortage. The recent inclement weather has led to a mass cancellation of blood drives across our region with more than 3,000 scheduled donations lost—the largest single loss since Superstorm Sandy.

The New York City Blood Program has always depended on New Yorkers in helping to maintain the area's blood supply. Donating blood takes less than one hour and has the potential to save up to three lives! Donors with O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially encouraged to donate, as your blood can be used in emergencies.

Call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) or visit nybloodcenter.org for a list of blood drives in the coming weeks.

~~~~~

## **BEWARE OF SCAMMERS DURING TAX SEASON**

Tax season is upon us; beware of scammers! The Internal Revenue Service today issued its annual “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams, reminding taxpayers to use caution during tax season to protect themselves against a wide range of schemes ranging from identity theft to return preparer fraud.

The Dirty Dozen listing, compiled by the IRS each year, lists a variety of common scams taxpayers can encounter at any point during the year. But many of these schemes peak

during filing season as people prepare their tax returns.

Common scams include:

- Identity theft, which occurs when someone uses your personal information, such as your name, Social Security number (SSN) or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. In many cases, an identity thief uses a legitimate taxpayer's identity to fraudulently file a tax return and claim a refund.
- Pervasive Telephone Scams, which include many variations, ranging from instances from where callers say the victims owe money or are entitled to a huge refund. Some calls can threaten arrest and threaten a driver's license revocation. Sometimes these calls are paired with follow-up calls from people saying they are from the local police department or the state motor vehicle department.
- Phishing, which is a scam typically carried out with the help of unsolicited email or a fake website that poses as a legitimate site to lure in potential victims and prompt them to provide valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, a criminal can commit identity theft or financial theft.
- False promises of “Free Money” from inflated refunds.
- Return preparer fraud
- Hiding income in offshore accounts
- Impersonation of charitable organizations

- False income, exemptions, or expenses
- Falsely claiming zero wages or using false Form 1099
- Abusive Tax Structures: Abusive tax schemes have evolved from simple structuring of abusive domestic and foreign trust arrangements into sophisticated strategies that take advantage of the financial secrecy laws of some foreign jurisdictions and the availability of credit/debit cards issued from offshore financial institutions
- Misuse of trusts

If you encounter any of these scams, please contact the IRS immediately.

~~~~~

***WANT TO KNOW ABOUT
CONSTRUCTION IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?***

The Department of Buildings' web page can tell you precisely what construction is approved for your block.

To find out information on buildings permits and construction projects, visit www.nyc.gov/buildings, click on "Homeowners and Tenants" on the left hand side of the page, and in the options that come up in the drop down box, select "Construction in Your Community." Next, click on "Building on My Block" on the new page that opens. Architects and Engineers are required to submit simple, 3-D representations of new buildings and enlargements. These diagrams are available through Building on My Block and allow you to view visual depictions of major construction projects in your neighborhood.

~~~~~

***A WALK IN HISTORY CLERGY TOUR  
& BREAKFAST***

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Assemblyman Karim Camara, and

the Weeksville Heritage Center are pleased to present ***"A Walk In History Clergy Tour & Breakfast."***

The event will be held on **Thursday, February 19, 2015** with the program starting at 10 AM and the tour starting at 11:45 AM. All events will be held at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. For more information, visit [www.weeksvillesociety.org](http://www.weeksvillesociety.org).

The Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn's largest African-American cultural institution, is a multidisciplinary museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 19<sup>th</sup> century African-American community of Weeksville, Brooklyn—one of America's first free black communities.

RSVP by calling 718-802-4488 or emailing [fmonrose@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:fmonrose@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

~~~~~

***MOVE NY FAIR PLAN PUBLIC
FORUM***

There will be a **public forum on the Move NY Fair Plan** featuring "Gridlock" Sam Schwartz on **Thursday, February 19, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM** at the YWCA on 3rd Avenue and Atlantic Avenue (Downtown Brooklyn). The event is co-sponsored by Community Boards 2, 6, and 8.

Learn and talk about reducing congestion in Downtown and Brownstone Brooklyn; modernizing and expanding the transit system; and fixing roads and bridges.

~~~~~

***OPERATION HOPE***

Popular Community Bank is pleased to announce **Operation Hope** on **Thursday, February 19, 2015 from 5PM to 8 PM** at Popular Community Bank located at 539

Eastern Parkway in celebration of their newest HOPE INSIDE location in Brooklyn.

Free business consultations will be available as well as 1-on-1 counseling and classes for anyone that wants to start a business.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ana Calvo at [acalvo@bpop.com](mailto:acalvo@bpop.com) or 212-417-6904.

~~~~~

FREE TAX PREPARATION DAY

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer and the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center invite you to a **free tax preparation day**. Have your Federal and State taxes completed and filed by IRS-Certified Volunteers. Families or individuals earning less than \$58,000 are eligible.

The tax filing days will be held on two Saturdays, **February 21, 2015 and March 21, 2015** from **10 AM to 4 PM** at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center located at 256 Kingston Avenue. RSVP by calling 718-773-6886.

Bring a photo ID and social security card for everyone being claimed; W2 and/or 1099 statement; documentation and tax exempt ID number (if claiming child care expenses); last year's income tax return; if self-employed, bring self-declaration letter and receipts of business expenses; any other relevant tax information.

~~~~~

### **GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY**

February is Children's Dental Health Month! On **Thursday, February 19, 2015** from **10 AM to 2 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn, **join Borough President Adams for Give Kids a Smile**

**Day**. Free oral health exams for children ages 3 to 12 will be provided. Learn about dental hygiene, how to handle sudden tooth loss, and which foods can affect teeth and cause decay.

There will be free giveaways. For more information visit [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org).

~~~~~

HISTORY OF BLACK LIFE AND CULTURE: THE EVOLUTION OF GOSPEL

Kings County Criminal Court is pleased to present its **Black History Month** celebration, **"The Evolution of Gosepl"** on **Friday, February 20, 2015 at 1:15 PM** at Kings County Criminal Court in the lobby, 120 Schermerhorn Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Featured genres include "Fisk Jubilee Singers," "Civil Rights," and "Contemporary Gospel."

~~~~~

### **STATE OF THE 36TH DISTRICT**

Councilmember Robert Cornegy cordially invites you to attend his **State of District Address** on **Saturday, February 21, 2015** from **11 AM to 2 PM**. The State of the District address will be given at Uncommon Charter High School located at 1485 Pacific Street. Reserve your ticket online by visiting <http://sotd36.eventbrite.com> or calling 718-919-0740.

~~~~~

LUNAR NEW YEAR

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer cordially invites you to **celebrate Lunar New Year** on **Tuesday, February 24, 2015** from **6 to 8 PM**. The event will be held at Surrogate's Courthouse at 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

To RSVP, please call 212-669-4466 or email events@comptroller.nyc.gov. To arrange special accommodations, call 212-669-4315.



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson is offering a free **Teen Dating Violence workshop** on **Tuesday, February 24, 2015 from 9:15 AM to 1 PM** at Brooklyn Law School, Moot Court Room, 250 Joralemon Street, 7th Floor, Downtown Brooklyn. The workshop is open to all junior high and high school students.

RSVP by February 13, 2015. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and there is a limit of 10 students per school. Please contact Audace Garnett at 718-250-2463 or email garnetta@brooklynda.org.



BLACK BUSINESS IN BROOKLYN: LEGACY & LONGEVITY

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams cordially invites you to celebrate Black History Month by joining in applauding the collective entrepreneurial spirit of: **Black Business in Brooklyn—Legacy and Longevity, honoring African-American Businesses in Brooklyn for 20 years or more.** The event will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 5 PM to 9 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

There will be an expo of new business samplings from 5 PM to 6:30 PM and the keynote speaker will be Ms. Monique Greenwood, CEO, Akwaaba Mansion and Bed and Breakfast. RSVP by February 20, 2015 by calling 718-802-4042.



TREE CENSUS

The **2015 ReLeaf Workshop** will be held on **Friday, March 6, 2015** at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The workshop will focus on analyzing, monitoring, and protecting New York's urban forests. Topics of the workshop include tree inventories, 2015 tree count census, New York Restoration Project, a letter-writing component, and tree mapping party.

For more information call Nina Medakovich at 718-482-6725, Sally Kellogg at 518-402-9425, or Andre Newman at 718-760-6432. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/lands/30859.html or www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/educate/releaf_workshop.shtml.



AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER WORKSHOP SERIES

The NYS Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Old Westbury, in collaboration with the Child Study Center at NYU Langone Medical Center and the NYC Dept. of Education presents a **free parent and teacher workshop series on best practices in supporting children with autism spectrum disorder.**

Teaching Safety Skills to Children with Autism will be hosted by Dr. Rebecca Doggett, PhD on **Monday, March 9, 2015** at 10 AM at PS 199 located at 1100 Elm Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.

Organizational Skills for Children with Autism will be hosted by Dr. Rebecca Shalev, PhD on Wednesday, **March 18, 2015** at 6 PM at PS 25 located at 811 E. 149th Street, Bronx, NY 10455 and again at 10 AM on **March 23, 2015** at IS 72 located at 33 Ferndale Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314.

All workshops are free. Register online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/a-free-parent-and-teacher-workshop-series-7675725583> or call the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support at 718-391-6872.

~~~~~

***THE CITY SPEAKS: BRINGING RESIDENTS AND AGENCIES TOGETHER***

Borough President Eric Adams cordially invites you to participate in an opportunity to **meet the representatives of government agencies and learn about their policies, guidelines, and the services they provide.** Participate in "The City Speaks: Bringing Residents and Agencies Together" and do just that! The NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about flooding, sewage backups, catch basins, water bills, noise, air, water concerns and much more.

The event will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015** with registration beginning at 5:30 PM at the discussion beginning at 6 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street, Community Room, Downtown Brooklyn.

For more information or to RSVP, call 718-802-3530.

~~~~~

COLLEGE FAIR/CAREER DAY

The Hospitality Committee/Scholarship Fund of First Baptist Church of Crown Heights is pleased to present its **College Fair and Career Day** on **Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 10 AM to 3PM** at 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. Interested high school students should attend to gather information on colleges (many invited), careers and entrepreneurship.

For more information, contact Michele Goudy at 917-826-4123, Vivian Griffin at 718-782-1451, or Laverne Holland at 917-755-8642.

~~~~~

***MOBILE CARE CLINIC***

Early Detection of Breast Cancer saves lives! As such, the **Mobile Care Clinic** will be coming to Community Board 8 on **Thursday, March 26, 2015** from **9 AM to 4:30 PM** in front of the Crown Heights Mediation Center located at 256 Kingston Avenue.

The Mobile Care Clinic will provide **no cost digital mammograms and clinical breast exams.** Women 40 years and older that are current New York City residents that have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months are eligible for exams. No co-pays are required and deductibles are waived.

To schedule an appointment, call 718-773-6886.

~~~~~

PROM IMPACT 2015: TURN DRESSES INTO DREAMS!

Young Ladies of Character: Prom Impact provides FREE formal wear to girls who could not otherwise afford to attend their prom, graduation, or other special occasion. Through donations of new and gently used formal dresses, shoes and accessories, they are able to "Turn Dresses Into Dreams" for hundreds of junior and high school seniors girls throughout the tri-state area.

Attendees get to select their FREE dream prom attire from hundreds of dresses, shoes and accessories; receive Free Mini Glam Makeovers designed by professionals in the beauty industry; participate in Catwalk tutorials and other how-to tips for prom etiquette; receive do's and don'ts and other

must-have advice from real prom experiences; have the opportunity to sign a Prom Safety Pledge; and speak with education and care counselors.

The dress giveaway will take place at Highland Church 160-20 Highland Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432 on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 10 AM to 3 PM. All girls in need of prom, graduation, or Sweet 16 gowns are invited to attend the event.

~~~~~

### ***NEW YORK CITY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS***

New York City Family Justice Centers are one-stop service centers for domestic violence help. The centers offer walk-in help for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking. To make it easier to get help, many agencies are located at each center. Services are free and are available to all victims. Assistance is offered in a variety of different languages.

Family Justice Centers offer case management, counseling, legal information, police assistance, prosecution assistance, a children's room for kids 3 and older, and self-sufficiency services to help you with public benefits, budgeting, child care, and financial safety.

The Brooklyn Center is located at 350 Jay Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM. For more information call 311.

~~~~~

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Suffolk County Police Officer

Suffolk County has scheduled an exam for Police Officer (both English and Spanish Speaking). You must be 19.5 to 35 years old to take the test.

Starting salary is \$42,000 annually. The application fee is \$100. For more information, please go to <http://goo.gl/EXM5Fb>. You may apply online by going to <http://goo.gl/eZDX6v>.

~~~~~

#### Municipal Credit Union

The Ralph Avenue Branch of Municipal Credit Union is hiring. The Ralph Avenue Branch is located at 2142 Ralph Avenue, in the Georgetown section of Brooklyn, NY 11234. Email resumes to [resumes@nymcu.org](mailto:resumes@nymcu.org) or fax to 212-766-5867. You can also mail resumes to MCU Human Resources Department, Municipal Credit Union, 22 Cortlandt Street, New York, NY 10007.

~~~~~

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The MTA is looking to hire for the position of Seasonal Bridge & Tunnel Officers to work for the spring & summer 2015. Positions are Full Time but temporary positions. \$15 Per Hr. Candidates will be selected by a random lottery system. Must apply by Feb 16, Training begins on or about April 1. Must be 18 years old, US Citizen & NYS resident w/ unrestricted drivers license and possess a HS Diploma/G.E.D. For more info or to apply, search for it on their website at http://web.mta.info/mta/employment/employment_out.html

~~~~~

### ***GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS***

#### 2015 Steve Harvey Scholarship

This year's Coca-Cola Pay It Forward Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation, is now taking applications.

The Coca-Cola Pay It Forward Scholarship Program offers scholarship awards and once-in-a-lifetime apprenticeship experiences to African American youth looking to pave the way for their futures. The program is under the umbrella of the Steve and Marjorie Harvey Foundation.

Winning students will get to participate in an apprenticeship allowing them to help with the Steve Harvey Mentoring Program, including working with members of Steve Harvey's team and learning what it takes to run the Steve Harvey Morning Show and Family Feud. They also get an opportunity to meet and be mentored by Steve Harvey himself. The winning student will also be awarded a scholarship to help pay for college tuition.

The program is open to both teens and young adults between the ages of 16-21. Nominators must be 16 years of age or older. Eligible youth also may nominate themselves. Winners will be selected and contacted within two months after the deadline.

**The deadline to apply is March 31, 2015.**  
**For more details and to apply, visit:**  
[www.scholarshipsonline.org/2014/01/coca-cola-pay-it-forward-scholarship-program.html](http://www.scholarshipsonline.org/2014/01/coca-cola-pay-it-forward-scholarship-program.html).

~~~~~

AABE

The American Association of Blacks in Energy is a professional organization of African Americans in the energy industry. **Through its Scholarship Program, AABE seeks to help increase the number of African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans (under-represented minorities) in energy related fields.** By doing so, they help the nation address a critical need and a challenge to our future economic vitality in the world market.

Candidates for an AABE scholarship must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have an overall "B" un-weighted academic average (3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale) or higher.
- Be a graduating high school senior who has applied to one or more accredited colleges/universities.
- Plan to major in business, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields in preparation for a career in the energy sector.
- Be a member of one of a class or group of individuals who has been historically under-represented in the sciences, technology, engineering and math related disciplines.

Consideration will be given only to candidates submitting complete application packages which include: (1) a completed AABE application form (copies are acceptable); (2) an official high school transcript; (3) official proof of ACT or SAT scores; (4) two letters of reference; and (5) a completed checklist. Please remove Social Security Numbers from any documents.

Complete application packages **MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN March 27, 2015** and submitted to the local AABE chapter listed below. Completed application packages should be scanned and emailed by **March 27, 2015** to aabencscholarshipapp@gmail.com.

Applications can be obtained by calling Community Board No. 8 at 718-467-5574.

~~~~~

We urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation's routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and Noon to 1 PM daily. The front of your property should be swept and free of debris 18 inches into the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. This will help increase our scorecard rating, which for the month of January was **86.6 for streets and 91.0 for sidewalks.**



The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 02/02/15 through 02/08/15.

|                  | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|------------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                  | 2015         | 2014 | %Chg  |
| Murder           | 1            | 1    | 0     |
| Rape             | 5            | 3    | 66.7  |
| Robbery          | 38           | 26   | 46.2  |
| Felony Assault   | 33           | 38   | -13.2 |
| Burglary         | 21           | 47   | -55.3 |
| Grand Larceny    | 41           | 45   | -8.9  |
| Gr. Larceny Auto | 11           | 18   | -38.9 |

The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through January 2015.

|                         | Month | YTD |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| Structural Fires        | 14    | 14  |
| Non-Structural          | 23    | 23  |
| Total Fires             | 37    | 37  |
| Suspicious Fires        | 1     | 1   |
| Non-Medical Emergencies | 313   | 313 |
| Medical Emergencies     | 291   | 291 |
| Total Incidents         | 661   | 661 |

The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Monday, March 8, 2015** at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church located at 856 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY.

The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 24, 2015** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The next **Crown Heights North Association meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2015** at 6:45 PM at St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church located at 991 St. John's Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue), Brooklyn, NY.

The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, March 12, 2015** at 7 PM at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn.

We would like to wish the **happiest of birthdays** to Fred Frazier, Melanie Grant, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, and Yves Vilus.

**ACROSS THE BOARD** is a monthly publication:

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

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.**  
**11213**

718-467-5574 or 467-5620

Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)

Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)