

ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 40, NO. 1

A Word from the District Manager

From the Chairperson, staff, and members of Community Board 8, we would like to wish everyone in our District a Happy and Prosperous 2018.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Adelaide Miller, who just celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We wish many more years to Ms. Miller, who remains an active member of the Board.

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We keep in our prayers the victims of the recent rash of fires that have occurred in New York City over the last few weeks.

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## ***FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION AND TIPS***

In an effort to inform New Yorkers of the dangers of fires and how best to act if in one, the FDNY has published the following 7 tips:

1. Never use an extension cord with large current appliances such as a space heater, air conditioner or refrigerator. Extension cords can cause home fires by overheating due to overloading the outlet.
2. Never smoke while lying down, especially if drowsy, medicated or have been drinking. Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding. Smokers

are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.

3. Stay in the kitchen while cooking and wear short or tight fitting sleeves. Unattended cooking accounts for thirty-three percent of home fires.
4. Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire in half. Install alarms on every floor and in bedrooms for extra protection. 70% of fire deaths occur in homes with an inoperable smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present. The majority of the deaths are children and older adults.
5. Plan and practice a fire escape plan. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Get out and CLOSE THE DOOR. Call 911 from a safe location. Smoke and fire kills! You may have less than three minutes to get to safety.
6. Store matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children. Provide close continuous supervision of children. Toddler fire deaths are most often due to children playing with matches or utility lighters.
7. Never leave burning candles unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20 years of age.

Following these simple 7 rules could save your life and others as well as protect your property. Be aware, be smart, and most importantly, be safe.

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We welcome **Mr. Rob Fields**, who was recently announced as the new President and Executive Director of Weeksville Heritage Center.

Weeksville was one of the first free black communities in New York, and the Heritage Center is located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn.

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### **GETTING INVOLVED**

If you would like to get involved in your community by becoming a Community Board member, now is the time of year to apply or reapply (if you are a current member) for membership. Community boards are not self-appointing bodies. All members are appointed by the Borough President, half of them at the recommendation of a local City Council Member. Members serve two-year terms.

Becoming a member or re-applying is a serious responsibility that requires a commitment of time, interest and energy. If you are ready to take this step or continue your service on the Board, please apply online at [www.brooklyn-usa.org/community-boards](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/community-boards) or contact your local City Councilmember.

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NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

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.**

These grants are an important resource for community groups. 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.

FREE LEAD TESTING FOR NYCHA CHILDREN

The NYC Housing Authority and NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation announced that the City will offer free blood lead level testing for the nearly 3,000 children ages 6 months to 8 years who live in NYCHA apartments that were painted in 2016 by workers without proper certification. Tenants who live in the 2,300 apartments that were painted during this time will receive a letter under their door and phone calls with more information about how to schedule an appointment at any NYC Health and Hospital location across the five boroughs by using the City's dedicated hotline. Residents concerned about their home or their children can learn more about the health effects of lead-based paint exposure by visiting the Dept. of Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention page at www.nyc.gov/lead. Residents can also call NYCHA's Customer Contact Center at 718-707-7771 with questions about the Authority's program to remediate potential lead-based paint hazards.

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### **SENIOR SAFETY BILL**

City Council member Chaim Deutsch proudly hailed the passage of his legislation Intro 1185, a Senior Safety Bill.

The bill will require the Department for the Aging to inform seniors who rely on life-sustaining equipment about the importance of registering their home address with their utility company.

In the event of a power outage, information about registered homes is shared among the electrical company and emergency service providers. This triggers a wellness check of the customer. The new measure will mandate widespread education and outreach to senior centers and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in multiple languages. It also

requires information to be posted prominently on the Department for the Aging website.

Councilman Deutsch stated, “In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, many residents of my district were left without electrical service. They had no access to phones to contact first responders and alert them to their reliance on life-sustaining equipment. In situations like this, registering with an electrical provider can mean the difference between life and death. I’m proud that my bill passed the City Council unanimously, underscoring the importance of outreach to raise awareness among our more vulnerable population,” said Deutsch.

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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.

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### ***BROOKLYN LEGAL PIPELINE INITIATIVE***

The Brooklyn Legal Pipeline Initiative (BLPI) is designed to provide students from diverse backgrounds, who live or attend college in Brooklyn, direct instruction on how to successfully apply to and fund a law school education. Participants will additionally attend a networking event where they will have the opportunity to socialize with practicing attorneys and judges and identify potential mentors. Students who attend all sessions will be offered an opportunity to obtain a summer internship. Stipends may be available to defray certain transportation and ancillary costs associated with the internships. This program is co-sponsored by the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association (BWBA), The Defense Association of New York (DANY) and the Brooklyn Bar Association (BBA).

Selected students will attend five (5) two-hour classroom sessions, once a month, starting in February 2018 that will be moderated by volunteer judges, attorneys and law school administrators. Classes will be held at the Brooklyn Bar Association’s landmark building located at 123 Remsen Street in downtown Brooklyn. These classes will be held from 5:30-7:30 PM on dates to be announced and will address the following topics:

**Session 1– The Legal Profession** - What is a lawyer? What do they do? – Panel discussion with judges and attorneys describing the areas in which they practice.

**Session 2 – Applying to Law School** - Course selection- Time management – Writing skills – IRAC - The LSAT’s – Paying for law school – Guided questions and answer session with a career counselor and a law school admissions officer.



**Session 3- Networking and Mentoring** – Each participant will be paired with an Attorney Mentor - Developing a resume and cover letter.

**Session 4 - Internships** –Interview Skills - Professionalism.

**Session 5- Mock Interviews** - Each participant will participate in simulated interviews and will receive immediate constructive feedback.

**July -August 2018 - Summer Internship Program**

Applications are available online at:  
[www.brooklynwomensbar.org](http://www.brooklynwomensbar.org) OR  
[www.defenseassociationofnewyork.org](http://www.defenseassociationofnewyork.org).



### ***SALUTE TO GREATNESS***

Vicariate of Black Catholic Concerns is pleased to present “Salute to Greatness, the 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday Observance Praise and Worship Service” in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Monday, January 15, 2018 at Our Lady of Victory Church located at 583 Throop Avenue** (between McDonough and Macon Streets) at Noon.

For more information please call 718-774-3806 or [blackcatholicconcern@diobrook.org](mailto:blackcatholicconcern@diobrook.org).



### ***CITYLAW BREAKFAST SERIES***

Dean Anthony W. Crowell and Professor Ross Sandler, Director, cordially invite you to the 148<sup>th</sup> CityLaw Breakfast presenting Samuel Schwartz, P.E., who will speak on “Move NY: Traffic, Transit, and Pricing.” The breakfast will be held on **Friday, January 26, 2018 at 8:15 AM at 185 West Broadway** (between Worth and Leonard Streets), **Events Center, Second Floor, Manhattan.**

For more information or to RSVP, email [nycitylaw@nyls.edu](mailto:nycitylaw@nyls.edu), call 212-431-2115, or visit [www.citylaw.org](http://www.citylaw.org).

### ***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.**



### ***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.

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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, January 20, 2018 from 2 PM – 4 PM** at 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. Call the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105 for more information.

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**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.

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The scorecard rating for the month of December was **97.3% for streets and 95.6% 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.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 01/01/18 through 01/07/18.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2018         | 2017 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 0            | 0    | *     |
| Rape           | 0            | 1    | -100  |
| Robbery        | 4            | 3    | 33.3  |
| Felony Assault | 5            | 6    | -16.7 |
| Burglary       | 4            | 3    | 33.3  |
| Grand Larceny  | 3            | 5    | -40   |
| GL Auto        | 2            | 3    | -33.3 |

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

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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.

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.

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***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

**Traffic Enforcement Agent (Exam No. 8324)**

Filing fee: \$47; file through 2/28/18

**Bridge Operator (Exam No. 8025)**

Filing fee: \$47; file through 1/23/18

**Correction Officer (Exam No. 8310)**

Filing fee: \$61; file through 1/31/18

**Environmental Police Officer (Exam No. 8320)**

Filing fee: \$61; file through 6/30/18

**Police Attendant (Exam No. 8268)**

Filing fee: \$47; file through 1/16/18

For more information on any of these positions, qualifications, or to apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs).

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We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. Robert Matthews, former Chairperson of Community Board 8. Mr. Matthews was recently re-admitted to Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital.

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The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30,

2018 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, February 12, 2018** at 7:30 PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to obtain the location.

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The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2018** at 7 PM at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

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