

# ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOLUME 39, NO. 7

## *A Word from the District Manager*

Congratulations to 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Commanding Officer, Issa Abbassi on his promotion to Deputy Inspector. We would also like to welcome Captain Abraham Sanabria, the new Executive Officer, of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/4/17 through 09/10/17.

|                       | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                       | 2017         | 2016 | %Chg  |
| <b>Murder</b>         | 2            | 9    | -77.8 |
| <b>Rape</b>           | 17           | 16   | 6.2   |
| <b>Robbery</b>        | 151          | 175  | -13.7 |
| <b>Felony Assault</b> | 212          | 283  | -25.1 |
| <b>Burglary</b>       | 128          | 130  | -1.5  |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>  | 255          | 325  | -21.5 |
| <b>GL Auto</b>        | 45           | 58   | -22.4 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-18.7 %**.

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## *GREAT NEWS!*

**Community Board 8 is #1 in the borough of Brooklyn in cleanliness for the month of August with a scorecard rating that was 100% for streets and 99.3% for sidewalks.** These numbers are largely due to the efforts of the Dept. of Sanitation deploying extra cleaners to clean our streets.

We would like to thank Superintendent John Imbriale and the men and women of Brooklyn North 8 Sanitation garage, who provided additional resources to commercial strips by sending cleaners to them on a regular basis to prevent garbage from blowing to side streets. In addition, Supt. Imbriale assisted the District in getting litter basket service to 6 days a week.

Now it is up to you to do your part to maintain the cleanliness. We urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 5 PM to 6 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. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep our District clean.

Please note that District 8 has now met the requirements of two consecutive fiscal years with a scorecard rating above 90%. Due to this fact, we are now eligible to apply for a reduction in Alternate Side Parking. Please be advised that the District office is scheduling a public hearing for late October/early November to obtain community feedback so that the full Board can vote on the issue. Additional information will be given at a later date.



### ***EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH***

September is National Preparedness Month. Given the devastation that has occurred over the last few weeks due to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, now is a perfect opportunity to remind you that we need to be prepared in case of an emergency. Let us become much more aware of what we can do for ourselves, our loved ones and pets in case of a catastrophic event.

We should all take action to prepare! We are all able to help first responders in our community by training how to respond during an emergency and what to do when disaster strikes where we live, work, and visit. The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and places of worship.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/september> for more information on how to create an emergency preparedness kit.

Also, please consider joining your NYC Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT members are valuable assets to the community and also to first responders. For more information about CERT, please visit [www.nyc.gov/cert](http://www.nyc.gov/cert).



### ***GREAT NEWS FOR NURSING MOTHERS***

The Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue), has a newly unveiled lactation pod available for nursing mothers to breast feed and breast pump milk for their children. You do not have to be a museum visitor to take advantage of the pod. For more information, contact the museum at 718-135-4400.



### ***COMPLIMENTARY ENERGY EFFICIENT BULBS***

Con Edison is bringing you better lightbulbs on them! They will upgrade your lighting with complimentary energy-efficient LED lightbulbs. Look out for their contractors as they go door-to-door in the neighborhood (open to 1-4 family homes). They will install lightbulbs at no cost to you.

Consider upgrading to LED bulbs for multiple reasons. First, reduce your carbon footprint. LED bulbs use up to 85% less electricity so there is less energy used and wasted. Secondly, they last up to 25 years and need to be replaced less frequently than ordinary bulbs. Thirdly, they save you money on your electricity bills.

Schedule your LED upgrade appointment and find more ways to save on your energy bill at [www.coned.com/neighborhood](http://www.coned.com/neighborhood). Call 877-870-6118 if you have any questions.



### ***ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS***

According to the FDNY, two thirds of electrical fires begin in plugs or cords of refrigerators or lamps. Frayed cords expose the electrical wires that spark on contact with each other or anything that can ground the electrical current.

Overloading electrical outlets is one of the major causes of fires in the home. All types of electrical devices require different levels of charges. As such, people should avoid leaving devices to charge unattended, especially overnight. (That is especially important for all the overnight cell phone chargers out there!)

There are some measures you can take and be aware of that will protect you and help reduce your risk of an electrical fire. A few of the most prominent ones are:

- Check your larger appliances and appliances that require 24-hour usage. Never plug them into the same outlet and never have them plugged into an extension cord or a power strip.
- Make sure your lightbulbs adhere to the wattage of the fixture. For instance, if your fixture calls for a 60 watt bulb, do not use a 100 watt bulb; instead, use 60 watts or less.
- Use extension cords only for temporary use. Never more than a few hours at a time. And never, under any circumstances, overload an extension cord. That is a surefire way to inadvertently start a fire as extension cords cannot carry as much current as permanent wiring.
- Protect all electrical cords from damage and never run them under carpets or rugs.
- Use surge protectors or power strips with automatic shutoff when you have multiple items, i.e., TV, cable box, internet box, wireless router, etc., plugged in in the same area. The automatic shutoff will eliminate electricity from continuing to flow through a malfunctioning strip and will also protect your electronics from sudden surges.
- Never use an appliance with a damaged cord and also give “air space” to your electronics so they will not over heat.

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## ***GREAT NEWS FOR SENIOR HOMEOWNERS***

Mayor deBlasio signed legislation that will increase the income eligibility to qualify for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption programs. The new income threshold is \$58,399. Seniors and New Yorkers with disabilities are getting a tax break! Homeowners with annual income of \$58,399 or less are now eligible to receive the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) or Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE).

Seniors 65+ or disabled New Yorkers with annual income of \$58,399 or less are eligible. SCHE and DHE exempt 5 to 50% of the assessed value of your home from taxation. **To apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/sche](http://www.nyc.gov/sche) or [www.nyc.gov/dhe](http://www.nyc.gov/dhe) and submit an application by January 16, 2018.** You could save hundreds of dollars or more on your property taxes this year.

If you are already receiving SCHE or DHE, there is no need to take action. Any increases to your benefit will appear on your January 2018 property tax bill with a retroactive credit to July 1, 2017. If you were previously denied because your income was too high, you still need to take no action. If your income is \$58,399 or less, the benefit will be applied to your account automatically, beginning with your January 2018 property tax bill with a retroactive credit to July 1, 2017.

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## ***MORE GOOD NEWS FOR SENIORS***

The New York City Department of Finance is making it easier than ever for longtime **Rent Freeze program participants to renew their benefits**. Beginning September 2017, a short-form renewal application will be mailed to SCRIE and DRIE recipients who have been

approved for five or more consecutive benefit periods. This shorter, simpler form will make it easier for seniors and people with disabilities to remain in the program and in their homes.

Participants in the Rent Freeze program will need to provide the completed short-form renewal along with copies of their most recent rental documents and, in some cases, proof of household income. More instructions are available on the form.

Eligible SCRIE and DRIE recipients will receive a short-form renewal application in the mail approximately 60 days before their benefit is due to expire.

Contact the Department of Finance at [www.nyc.gov/contactscrie](http://www.nyc.gov/contactscrie) or [www.nyc.gov/contactdrie](http://www.nyc.gov/contactdrie), or call 311.

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### ***PROJECT OPEN HOUSE***

Project Open House (POH), administered by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), removes architectural barriers in the homes of people with permanent disabilities. This program is designed to increase independence in the activities of daily living, thus helping people with disabilities remain a part of their communities. POH provides an opportunity for many individuals to modify their living environments.

POH is funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Program participants must meet Federal Section 8 income guidelines and reside within the five boroughs. Individual eligibility is determined by evaluating income and disability, and is on a first come, first served basis. MOPD conducts outreach into the disability community to seek participants. The City contracts with The

NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development to operate POH.

To apply for an application, visit [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/open\\_house/open\\_house.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/open_house/open_house.shtml).

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### ***HOUSING INSPECTOR CAREERS***

On **Monday, September 18, 2017**, the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, in Partnership with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, will be hosting a **Civil Service 101 Information Session** for the Housing Inspector exam that is currently open for filing. The info session will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at 1 Centre Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pre-bid Room, Manhattan.

Meet with recruiters from HPD to learn about what it means to be a Housing Inspector. Attend only if you have experience as a journeyman/journeywoman, housing inspector apprentice, field inspector, or experience in maintenance and repair of multiple dwellings. You can also have a Bachelor's degree or pursuing one in engineering, architecture, engineering technology, construction, or construction technology. A valid NYS license is required.

Space is limited. Register at <http://on.nyc.gov/NYCInspectors>.

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### ***COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING***

**Senator Velmanette Montgomery** will host a **Community Town Hall Meeting** on **Tuesday, September 19, 2017** at 6 PM concerning a potential New York State Constitutional Convention.

This November, voters will be asked to decide if our state should convene a Constitutional Convention. The New York State Constitution predates the United States Constitution by ten years and provides greater protections for New Yorkers. This issue is of the utmost importance as **every protection granted to residents will be open for modification.** The NYS Constitution defines many of the liberties that impact our daily lives and addresses concerns not taken up by the United States Constitution such as free public education, social welfare protections, and environmental preservation. The NYS Constitution mandates that every 20 years, voters are asked if there should be a convention to revise the Constitution and make amendments to it. If voters vote “no,” then our protections remain and amendments may still be added through a legislative process. Otherwise, the entire Constitution is open to modifications up to and including a complete rewrite.

The Town Hall to discuss the potentiality of a Constitutional Convention will be held at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church located at 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn. For more information, contact her office at 718-643-6140.

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***LEARN HOW TO SPOT AND AVOID  
PREDATORY LOANS***

Combatting predatory lending is a priority for the Dept. of Consumer Affairs (DCA). Join DCA representatives for an important presentation about your rights and resources, ask questions, and get tips on how to spot and avoid predatory loans.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, September 20, 2017 from 6 to 7:30 PM** at Legal Hand Crown Heights, which is located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn.

To RSVP, please call 718-619-4248. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dca](http://www.nyc.gov/dca).

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***FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR ALL***

**Borough President Eric Adams** is pleased to present **Free Legal Services** for All at “The People’s House, Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

Legal services are offered in a variety of fields including foreclosure intervention and prevention every second Wednesday of the month from 2-5 PM; veterans’ issues every Tuesday from 9 AM to 5 PM; domestic violence every third Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM; family law every Wednesday from 4-7 PM; and housing matters, trusts and estates, elder law, and government benefits every second Thursday from 2-5 PM.

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment for this free service as appointments are required.

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***CLASSROOM CONQUERORS***

"Classroom Conquerors" is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 9:00am-3:00pm at Kings Church of Christ, 1371 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn.** This annual community-based educational empowerment event brings together Middle School Students, Junior High School Students, High School Students, and parents throughout the tri-state area for a day of interactive workshops, empowerment, prizes, and a College and Career fair, which features college and career representatives from across the nation.

This year’s theme is “More Life,” a play on Drake’s latest album and an invitation for the

youth of our community to reach for more life through excellence, ambition, hope, and community connectedness despite any obstacles they face. The 2017 keynote Conqueror, Dr. Chris Emdin is an Associate Professor at Columbia University as well as a New York Time's bestselling author.

This year's Classroom Conquerors event will again offer event-specific scholarships of \$1,000 each to 3 High School seniors who attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to win an Apple Watch and everyone who pre-registers to attend the event and actually attends will receive a free gift.

You can register at [www.classroomconquerors.splashthat.com](http://www.classroomconquerors.splashthat.com).



***HOW TO FILE COMPLAINTS WITH THE DEPT. OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD)***

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy's office will be hosting a one day information session with HPD on **Wednesday, September 27, 2017 from 10 AM to 6 PM** at 1757 Union Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). Walk-ins are welcome.

**Office of Enforcement and Neighborhood Services (OENS)** staff will be on hand to respond to tenant and owner questions during this period. OENS staff will:

- Provide one on one education and assistance through the Council Member's Office
- Work with tenants individually about how to file a complaint and what to expect from the complaint process
- Discuss open violations with either tenants or property owners
- Discuss options for violation removal

- Provide Property Registration assistance
- Make referrals on issues such as affordable housing, foreclosures, and harassment

For more information, contact Councilwoman Mealy's office at 718-953-3097.



***AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR RENT***

Two affordable rental housing projects are accepting applications. 33 Bond Street Apartments Phase II in Downtown Brooklyn has 26 studios, 26 one bedroom, and 20 two bedroom low income units available. There are also middle income apartments available in the same complex with higher income bands. The application deadline is October 17, 2017. Late applications will not be considered.

Hoyt & Horn has 74 newly constructed moderate and middle income apartments for rent at 210 Livingston Street. There are 22 studios, 34 one bedrooms, and 18 two bedrooms available. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2017.

You can apply for both of the developments online at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect).

To request a paper application for 33 Bond Street, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to 33 Bond Street Apartments Phase II, PO Box 1543, New York, NY 10159. Do not apply by both paper and Housing Connect. Doing so will cause your application to be discarded.

To apply for Hoyt & Horn, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Hoyt & Horn Apartments, Housing Partnership Development Corporation, 242 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018. Do not apply by both paper and Housing Connect. Doing so will cause your application to be discarded.

## ***FREE EVENTS AND EXERCISE CLASSES***

**Weeksville Gardens Community Center**, located at 1640 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, is offering free events and classes:

- **Zumba & Line Dance Workshops**  
Mondays & Wednesdays with Diane & Stephanie  
**5:45 PM - 7:15 PM**
- **Ancestral Drumming**  
Tuesdays with Muhaba E. Olufemi & Dawn Dawkins-Nedd  
**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
- **Health Wellness & Beauty Event**  
September 16, 2017  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
- **GED Test Prep**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays starting on September 28, 2017  
**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
- **Poetry Café with Empress Poetry**  
Saturday, October 14, 2017  
**2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**
- **Storytime**  
October 21, 2017  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
- **WGCC Book Club**  
September 23rd  
**12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

Please call 718-395- 9001 ext 513 and ask for Judy Fears for more information.

## ***CITI BIKE EXPANSION INSTALLATION***

Beginning at the end of the month and extending through the fall, Citibike will be begin installing docking stations in District 8. There will be 17 total docks in our District extending from Flatbush Avenue on the west, Rogers/Bedford Avenue on the east, Atlantic Avenue on the north, and Eastern Parkway on the south. As soon as a dock is installed, bikes

will be ready for use. Please note, the locations have already been determined and the comment period is closed.

## ***SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES***

### **Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway**

For years, the Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway has awarded millions of dollars in tuition to students across the county to assist with the rising cost of tuition. 16 awards totaling \$100,000 will be awarded to students for education costs.

To apply, students must go to <https://www.drpeppertuition.com/> and connect with their Facebook account and authorize the Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway application. Full instruction on how to apply for the program are available on the website.

To be eligible, you must be a legal resident of the U.S. and between the ages of 18 and 24. You are not eligible if you or a member of your immediate family or household is an employee, officer, or director of any promotion party, or owner/operator of person responsible for purchasing or promotion decisions at retailers of sponsor products. You also must not be an active NCAA collegiate athlete at any division in any sport, nor have played professional, semi-professional, for Division I collegiate football at any time.

For more information visit [www.drpeppertuition.com](http://www.drpeppertuition.com). **The deadline to apply is October 17, 2017.**

## ***ONLINE JOBS SITE DIRECTORY***

Please visit any one of the following websites to get the latest job opportunities:



**U.S. Department of Labor**

[www.dol.gov/dol/jobs.com](http://www.dol.gov/dol/jobs.com)

**NYC Dept. of Labor**

[www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov)

[www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regions.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regions.shtm)

**NYC Dept. of Employment**

[www.jobcentral.com/ny](http://www.jobcentral.com/ny)

**America's Job Bank**

[www.ajb.org](http://www.ajb.org)

**The Monster board**

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

**Craigslist**

<http://newyork.craigslist.org/jjj>

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 27, 2017** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Please note that this is not the regular meeting day.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 9, 2017** at 7:30 PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Helen Coley, Mr. Elijah Gray, Ms. Elaine Mahoney, Mr. Robert Matthews, and Ms. Sheryl Vassell, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of September.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Elijah Gray, one of our 49 Community Board members. Mr. Gray is the youngest person ever to serve on the Board with his appointment at the age of 18 in 2016.

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We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. Robert Matthews, Chairperson Emeritus of Community Board 8, who is still recovering at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center.

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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**

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

**718-467-5574**  
**718-467-5620**  
**Fax: 718-778-2979**

Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)  
Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)

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Sign up for **NextDoor** at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).