



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 8

SEPTEMBER 2020

VOLUME 42, NO 5

District Manager's Report

2020 CENSUS!

Please do not forget to **fill out the 2020 Census** as the deadline is September 30th. The Census means billions of dollars for NYC's future, including for health care. It takes just a few short minutes, and all responses are confidential and protected by law. You do not have to fear your citizenship status as that is not a question on the Census.

Currently, Brooklyn is lagging much farther behind in responses than both the national average and the state of New York. Kings County, or the borough of Brooklyn, has habitually been the most undercounted county in the census in recent decades, costing the borough hundreds of millions of federal dollars for education, healthcare, transportation, and many more services. The reported Self-Response Rates as of today has Brooklyn at only 55.3% compared to the national average of 65.3% and NYS at 61.7%. NYC's response rate is currently 58.5%, still much lower than we need it to be.

Right now, census staff are going door to door to try to get people to complete the census by the Sept. 30 deadline. However, there have been [reports of people being hostile to census workers](#) given that some people don't like to be bothered at home and people are wary of talking to strangers right now given our efforts to social distance. These employees are just doing their best to help us get as much federal money as possible. If you do not want to interact with them, be civil and tell them that you will complete the census on your own, then do so.

The experiences of the past six months should inform every resident of how important the census is. Please fill out your form today and get counted. For more information, visit www.2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020.

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## ***VOTER INFORMATION***

This November, we encourage New Yorkers to cast their vote in the general election. While we understand that Covid-19 remains a threat and might influence whether or not you vote in person, this year you have the option of voting by mail. The deadline to request an absentee ballot to vote by mail is October 27<sup>th</sup>. To request an absentee ballot, go to [www.vote.nyc](http://www.vote.nyc) and complete the form as soon as possible. The Board of Elections (BOE) will then mail you a ballot.

Recognizing the uncertainty with the United States Postal Service, you are advised to request and submit your ballot as soon as possible and earlier rather than later to avoid delay. If you prefer to vote in person, we recommend voting early to dispel long lines and unnecessary risk. You can find your early voting and Election Day poll sites [and a sample ballot] by visiting [www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com](http://www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com).

**The deadline to register to vote is October 9<sup>th</sup>.** You can register online via the Dept. of Motor Vehicles if you have a valid state-issued ID, register online, or register by mail. For all the ways to register to vote, please visit <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingdeadlines.html>.

**Finally, Sign up to be a poll worker.** The New York City Board of Elections is actively seeking poll workers for the upcoming election. **You can earn up to \$2800** by working up to ten days during early voting and on Election Day. To apply to be a poll worker, visit <https://nyc.electiondayworker.com/start.aspx>.

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INDOOR DINING TO RESUME SEPTEMBER 30TH

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that Indoor Dining Can Resume in New York City on Sept 30th at 25% Capacity. There are some restrictions, however.

- Temperatures must be taken
- One person per party has to leave their contact information.
- Masks must be worn at all times
- Tables must be at least six feet apart
- No one is allowed to sit at the bar
- Restaurants must close by midnight

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## ***MUNICIPAL SERVICES UPDATE***

The District office of Community Board 8 has received an increased number of complaints regarding street cleanliness and garbage disposal. We would like to remind homeowners and business owners to sweep daily in front of their property 18 inches into the gutter at the curb. Reduced Alternate Side Parking regulations means that each property owner must take their responsibilities more seriously to maintain the cleanliness of our streets.

Additionally, the Dept. of Sanitation now collects residential garbage on every shift. While we understand that some property owners prefer to place their garbage out early morning to reduce the potential for rodents feasting on rubbish, this practice increases the likelihood of you missing collection should the truck come through your block on the overnight (midnight to 8 AM) shift. Please place all of your garbage curbside the evening of the day before your regularly scheduled pick up day. This goes for regular trash and recycling. For instance, if your pickup day is Wednesday, you would place all refuse curbside on Tuesday evening.

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All restaurants that participate in curbside seating are strongly encouraged to power wash their seating area and surrounding sidewalk with soap and water at least twice daily to make the outdoor dining area look more inviting, smell fresh, reduce vermin attraction with any spillage, and also to assist with street cleaning as the broom is unable to sweep your curbside. Rodent complaints around heavily used curb seating areas have dramatically increased with rodent sightings feasting on food and spilled remnants.

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We are all aware of the increase in gun violence in the city over the last six months during the Pause. Did you know that you can safely and anonymously report illegal guns to the NYPD? Operation Gun Stop has removed thousands of guns from the streets of New York and led to the arrest of thousands of criminals. More than half of the homicides in New York City involved illegal handguns, and much of the gun violence we are experiencing now is caused by these same illegal guns. The Police Foundation gives rewards of \$1,000 for anonymous tips to 1-866-GUN-STOP or 311. Let us all work together to get these guns off the streets to make them safer for us all.

To that effect, Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is hosting a “Cash for Guns: No Questions Asked” event on **Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 10 AM to 4 PM** event at St. Paul Community Baptist Church Family Life Center located at 858 Hendrix Street, Brooklyn. \$25 will be given for rifles, shotguns, and air guns. \$200 will be given for handguns and assault rifles. All payments will be made via pre-paid cards.

Face coverings are required and social distancing adhered to. Identification is not required. Place guns in a plastic bag or box. If arriving by vehicle, keep the gun in the trunk. There is a maximum payment of \$600 given; if you have more than 3 handguns, your payment will not exceed \$600. Any non-active or retired law enforcement officers and non-licensed gun dealers can participate in the event and receive payment. Once the gun has been screened by officers and determined to be operable, you will be issued a gift card.

For more information, call 311.

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INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL RE-OPENING

As the 2020-2021 school year begins, we would like to wish all education staff and students good health and safety during this school year. Below is some important information for teachers, parents, and students.

School Reopening Information: Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City public schools will reopen but on a delayed date with blended learning beginning on September 21st while remote learning will begin on September 16th. Teachers will return to their classrooms on September 8th to prepare for the school year, though teachers and staff who do not want to participate in the school year, including those who are immunocompromised and are concerned for the health and safety of their family members, will be placed on unpaid leave.

Under the terms of an agreement with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), all public school buildings will be subjected to final safety and ventilation checks, be assigned a school nurse, and be provided with PPE and cleaning supplies. Any building or room that does not meet the safety standards on the UFT's [safety checklist](#) will remain closed. Beginning September 21st, the DOE will begin mandatory, random COVID testing of students and staff.

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## ***TAX LIEN INFORMATION***

**The NYC Department of Finance Lien Sale has been POSTPONED.** Rightfully so, many residents and elected officials expressed their concern over the annual tax lien sale. The city's lien sale was scheduled to occur on **September 3rd, but has now been postponed until September 25<sup>th</sup>**. However, if you are a homeowner and your property may be at risk, it is still important to contact the City and establish a payment plan for any outstanding debts. Find out if your property has a tax lien and get more info by visiting <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/taxes/property-lien-sales.page>.

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IMPORTANT PANDEMIC NEWS

The **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC)** has ended. Unless the federal government acts, unemployed residents are no longer able to claim this \$600 weekly benefit. However, **New York State residents may be eligible for additional weeks of unemployment compensation.**

Traditional **Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are now extended for up to 59 weeks:** Traditional UI lasts for 26 weeks in New York, and has been extended by both the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which adds 13 weeks, and the Extended Benefits (EB) program, which adds an additional 20 weeks.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits are now extended for up to 46 weeks: Under Federal law, those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) are

not eligible for PEUC or EB, but are now eligible for up to 46 weeks of benefits in New York, which is an increase from the original 39 weeks.

To continue receiving these benefits, it is important to re-certify your claim every week. Please visit the [Department of Labor](https://dol.ny.gov/) online at <https://dol.ny.gov/> for more information.

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### ***MTA MASK FORCE***

You are invited to join the MTA next week as they bring back the MTA Mask Force to subway lines and buses in Brooklyn. In July & August, over 600 MTA volunteers, joined by elected officials and advocacy groups, handed out masks to New Yorkers who needed them. Next week, the venture is happening again as masks are key to stopping the spread of the virus. Wearing a mask helps keep everyone safe. Positive reinforcement and easy access to masks can help remind people to wear them. It's rewarding and means a lot to riders.

Volunteers must be 18 years or older and will work 2.5 hour shifts from ten locations throughout the five boroughs (**the locations in Brooklyn will be Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center and Broadway Junction**) handing out masks on **Monday, September 14 and Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mask-force>.

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SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The threat of suicide is growing. The incidence of suicide in the United States has increased by 25% since 1999 and suicide prevention strategies are not addressing the threat as well as they should. Additionally, as the "Great Pause of 2020" due to the Covid-19 pandemic continues to drag on, more and more people are experiencing the deleterious mental effects of isolation, thus causing the immediate suicidal tendency rate to increase as well. That is why it is an important time to learn as much as we can to promote prevention, in our personal lives as well as our professional lives.

Learn about suicide warning signs. Common signs include but are not limited to:

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- Depressive symptoms such as sadness, isolation, withdrawal
- Lack of connectedness or oppositionally feeling as though they belong to others
- Expressing how they feel like a burden to others for any and all reasons
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Desensitization to violence and cruelty
- Preparing for their demise by "getting their affairs in order" out of the blue
- Verbally fantasizing and articulating/glorifying death

If anyone you know has exhibited any of these symptoms and has access/means to obtain firearms, pills, or other deadly weapons, act immediately. **Ask direct questions.** Do not be

afraid to ask the person directly if they are feeling suicidal or having suicidal ideations; this may encourage them to open up and be honest and will allow you to serve as a better support system. Continue following up with them over time as ideations are usually not a “one and done” scenario. Do not keep your information a secret. Help is always available for both them and yourself as their support. Contact the NYC EAP at 212-306-7660 or email: eap@olr.nyc.gov. For 24 hour assistance, contact NYC Well 1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355) and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

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### ***NEWS FROM LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS:***

#### ***ATTORNEY GENERAL LETITIA JAMES NEEDS YOUR HELP!***

The Office of the NYS Attorney General (OAG) has been investigating allegations that the NYPD disproportionately issued summonses or arrested people in communities of color for failing to wear masks or maintain social distance. The NYPD announced an order to stop enforcing the mask requirement in or around June and the OAG hasn't heard complaints since. The OAG wants to confirm whether the enforcement of those rules has stopped.

**If you or someone you know has been arrested or issued a summons for not social distancing or wearing a mask, please call 646 - 397 - 4378.**

#### ***ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANA RICHARDSON***

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson in conjunction with Senator Zellnor Myrie are pleased to announce a “Pop-Up Farmers Market” with free fresh produce every Wednesday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM (while supplies last) at 330 Empire Blvd (corner of Nostrand Avenue). For more information, contact Assemblywoman Richardson's office at (718) 771-3105.

#### ***Weekly Food Distribution Sites in the 43<sup>rd</sup> AD***

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson would like constituents in need of food provisions to go to one or more of the weekly food distribution sites as no person should go hungry.

Wednesdays  
43<sup>rd</sup> AS & WCK Farmers Market  
9:30 AM to 10:30 AM  
330 Empire Blvd (corner of Nostrand Avenue)

Wednesdays  
Crown Heights Jewish Community Council  
1:30 PM to 3 PM  
899 Montgomery Street (entrance on Schenectady Avenue)

Thursdays  
Beulah Church of the Nazarene  
10 AM to Noon  
1250 St. Johns' Place (between Troy and Albany Avenues)

Thursdays  
Kingdom Life Ministries  
Noon to 2 PM  
770 Park Place (between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues)

Fridays  
Crown Gardens Housing Corp.  
Noon to 3 PM  
845 Nostrand Avenue, Community Room (between President and Carrol Streets)

Saturdays  
Lenox Road Baptist Church  
11 AM to 12:30 PM  
1356 Nostrand Avenue (between Lenox Road and Linden Blvd)

### **SENATOR ZELNOR MYRIE**

Every Monday at 11 AM through winter 2020, there will be a grocery and PPE (protective personal equipment) giveaway at Prospect Plaza Community Center located at 1285 Sterling Place. Supplies will be available on a first come, first served while supplies last basis. Facial coverings and social distancing required.

Call Senator Zellnor Myrie's office at 718-284-4700 for more information.

### **ASSEMBLYWOMAN JO ANNE SIMON**

**2020 Flu Shots.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine not only to protect your own health and give you peace of mind, but because reducing cases of the flu will reduce the burden on the healthcare system and will reduce the overall impact of debilitating illnesses on the population. To arrange for your annual flu shot, please contact your primary care provider, check with your local pharmacy, or check <https://www.vaccinefinder.org/>. Some of the normal places you may be accustomed to getting your flu shot may not be able to do so this year due to social distancing, so check before you go.

**Blood Donation Drive: 9/15.** When times are tough, you can count on New Yorkers to show up for one another. The need for a consistent supply of blood donations continues. Donations can be scheduled by calling 1(800) 933-2566 or visiting [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org). The next blood donation drive with the NYBC will take place on September 15, 2020. For locations and more information, visit <https://www.nybc.org/>.

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NYC GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESPONSE DAY

In response to the massive increase in gun violence in District 8 and New York City as a whole in the last few months, **Congresswoman Yvette Clarke** has organized a NYC Gun Violence Prevention Response Day scheduled for **Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 2 PM**. The march

will convene at Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway and will travel through some of the hardest hit Central Brooklyn communities. Additional details are below.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM - Meetup - Utica & Eastern Pkwy

Location #1 - CARAVAN/WALK

NYC Cure Groups - BIVO / WAG / S.O.S / The FARM / BTM / MEL

YDC Team: Shana/Gabriel

Precinct: 77th Precinct

Volunteer(s): NYC Cure Violence Members and Teens

Utica Ave & Eastern Pkwy

Participants will meet at Eastern Parkway & Utica Ave on Modell's side of the street at 2:00 pm.

Kick off - Local Elected at 2:30 pm(speaking)

The caravan will lead the walkers to start at 3:00 PM.

Walk down Utica Ave right on E New York Ave, make left on New York Ave, then make right on Clarkson and right on Ocean Ave. (between Ocean Ave & St. Paul's Pl).

For more information, please contact the Congresswoman's office at 718- 287-1142.

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***ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT FOR PARENTS***

The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced many parents to become students again in an effort to accommodate the necessities of remote learning. Parents nationwide have expressed their need for assistance in helping their children. InsideSchools+ heard the call and answered, creating "[How to Support Online Learning at Home.](#)" a free online class for NYC families. It was designed by InsideSchools editor in chief [Dr. Tom Liam Lynch](#), a former education technology professor. You can take the class at your own pace and convenience.

If you are extra worried about the reopening of school this year as many families are, this class will help you get ready. Start the class today at [InsideSchools+](#) by visiting <https://plus.insideschools.org/>.

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NEWS FROM THE NORTH FLATBUSH AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Supporting Black Owned Business

NFBID is committed to supporting and amplifying Black owned businesses, and they have compiled this list (click [HERE](#) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cC22w1k_Loj80A4CN7EmrwAOUjjhwabyo9oIIZIKZA/edit#gid=0) of Black owned businesses providing goods and services for other businesses. As you look to contract with a vendor for everything from cleaning services to

marketing support, consider hiring a Black owned business! Also, please share your favorite Black owned vendors so they can be added to this list.

DEP's Water Conservation and Reuse Grant Program Round 2

Applications are open for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's grant program, which reimburses commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential property owners who invest in water efficiency projects and innovative water saving technologies. Applications are open until September 15, 2020 and you can learn more and apply [HERE \(https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/water-conservation-reuse-grants.page\)](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/water-conservation-reuse-grants.page).

Get a FREE Energy Assessment from ConED!

For a limited time, ConED is [offering small and medium businesses](#) in Brooklyn and Queens neighborhoods (including Park Slope and Prospect Heights) incentives for energy-efficient upgrades when you schedule a FREE energy assessment. Con Edison's Non-Wires Solutions team provides additional incentives for various measures within eligible territories, in order to reduce electric demand kW savings and sustain a reliable grid. These upgrades will pay for themselves over time, and help you save energy and money year-round.

For more information, click [HERE https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/rebates-incentives-tax-credits/energy-savings-options](https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/rebates-incentives-tax-credits/energy-savings-options), or call 1-877-870-6118.

"MEND NYC" Program for Hospitality Industry Mediation

The Mayor just announced the launch of [MEND NYC](#), a program to provide mediation to New Yorkers and hospitality businesses across the city who are in disputes over quality-of-life issues. This is a free, innovative alternative that can bring lasting solutions to longstanding local issues that have been laid bare by the COVID-19 crisis, which has caused an increase in complaints to 311. Read the press release [HERE](#), and please consider tapping into this new resource whenever it can be helpful with resolving any local disputes you might be facing as a business owner or as a resident.

COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

Governor Cuomo has announced an emergency rental assistance program that will help keep low-income families throughout New York in their homes. The program, which is designed to reach those individuals and families with the greatest need, will provide direct aid for tenants who lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the CDC just announced a nationwide moratorium on residential evictions, through the end of 2020. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Fun Stuff

Although the 2020 TCS NYC Marathon is sadly canceled, our partners at NYRR are giving runners an option to create their own race, through their virtual marathon series! Check it out [HERE](#).

Our friends at Porch Stomp are teaming up with the Gowanus Dredgers to host a live, socially-distanced event celebrating the tremendous influence of African American traditions on the folk music and dance that we enjoy today. On Saturday, September 12th at 5pm, they welcome Vienna Carroll and Newman Taylor Baker, renowned local performers who will share a history of the African American experience through traditional music. More information [HERE](#).

The North Flatbush BID will be sponsoring a "Flatfoot Flatbush" stage at Porch Stomp's annual festival on October 10th. Follow [Porch Stomp](#) for more information!

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### ***SAVE ENERGY, SAVE THE PLANET***

Heat/Cool Smart Brooklyn is hosting a community webinar on **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8 PM** to discuss clean heating and cooling in Brooklyn. To register, visit [www.heybrooklyn.org](http://www.heybrooklyn.org).

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BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

First Baptist Church of Crown Heights is hosting a Back to School Supply Giveaway on Saturday, September 12th from Noon to 2 PM. Supplies will be available for students Pre-K thru 12th grade. Backpacks fully packed with supplies will be available. The event will be held at 450 Eastern Parkway, corner of Rogers Avenue.

For more information, visit www.myfbcch.org.

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### ***COVID-19 TESTING***

Covid-19 testing and tracing remains an integral part of fighting the virus. **COVID-19 Diagnostic & Antibody Testing** capacity has increased. Find a test site near you by visiting <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page> or <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>. **Tests are free at these sites** on a walk-in basis. If you have questions about symptoms you are experiencing, but you don't have a primary care provider, call the 24-hour state hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or 311 to receive assistance making an appointment to get a COVID-19 test. To review the symptoms for COVID-19, go to [NYC DOH](#).

To help quell the spread of Covid-19, pop-up testing sites are available across the city. The table below has this current week's testing sites.

| First Day | Last Day  |                                     | Name of Site/Partner              | Address                                                | Zip   |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>1: Bronx (MO)</b>                | Bronx Bethany Church of Nazarene  | 971 East 227th Street, Bronx, NY 10466                 | 10466 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>2: Staten Island (CU VANBLT)</b> | Project Hospitality               | 260 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302         | 10302 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/7/2020  | <b>3: Brooklyn (EY)</b>             | Brooklyn SDA Church               | 1260 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230                     | 11230 |
| 9/8/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>3: Brooklyn (EY)</b>             | Brighton Neighborhood Association | 1002 Brighton Beach Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235         | 11235 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>4: Brooklyn (CU)</b>             | Brooklyn SDA Church               | 1260 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230                     | 11230 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>6: Manhattan (EL)</b>            | Campos Plaza                      | 643 East 13th Street, New York, NY 10009               | 10009 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/9/2020  | <b>5: Manhattan (EL)</b>            | Harlem Community Justice Center   | 2059 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10035                 | 10035 |
| 9/10/2020 | 9/11/2020 | <b>5: Manhattan (EL)</b>            | Wagner Houses                     | 2396 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10035                    | 10035 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>8: Queens (EL)</b>               | Tudor Park                        | Corner of 81st. and 133rd Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11417 | 11417 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>7: Queens (EL)</b>               | Korean Community Services         | 203-05 32nd Ave, Queens, NY 11361                      | 11361 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>9: Bronx (EL)</b>                | Clason's Point Library            | 1215 Morrison Ave, The Bronx, NY 10472                 | 10472 |
| 9/7/2020  | 9/11/2020 | <b>10: Staten Island (CI)</b>       | West Brighton I & II              | 820 Henderson Ave, Staten Island, NY 10310             | 10310 |

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Frederick Monderson, a former long-time member, who recently lost his 19-year old son Eric, in a tragic accident last month.

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We send condolences to the Burton Family after the loss of the last remaining founding member of the Lincoln Civic Block Association, Mr. Jimmy Burton.

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We wish the happiest of birthday to Ms. Helen Coley, Ms. Regina Kinsey, Ms. Elaine Mahoney, Mr. Desmond Atkins, and Ms. Tamika Gibbs, as all will celebrate a birthday in the month of September.

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

**Ethel Tyus, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**

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