

ACROSS THE BOARD

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 40, NO. 4

A Word from the District Manager

Community News!

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through March 2018.

|                         | Month      | YTD         |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Structural Fires        | 32         | 91          |
| Non-Structural          | 19         | 79          |
| <b>Total Fires</b>      | <b>51</b>  | <b>170</b>  |
| Suspicious Fires        | 2          | 11          |
| Non-Medical Emergencies | 255        | 916         |
| Medical Emergencies     | 282        | 822         |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>  | <b>595</b> | <b>1973</b> |

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The scorecard rating for the month of March was **92.9% for streets and 98% 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 the District clean.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 04/02/18 through 04/08/18.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2018         | 2017 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 1            | 0    | *     |
| Rape           | 3            | 6    | -50   |
| Robbery        | 32           | 61   | -47.5 |
| Felony Assault | 60           | 73   | -17.8 |
| Burglary       | 44           | 60   | -26.7 |
| Grand Larceny  | 102          | 95   | 7.4   |
| GL Auto        | 15           | 13   | 15.4  |

The overall change year-to-date is -16.6%.

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GOOD NEWS FOR CERTAIN CON EDISON CUSTOMERS

In addition to offering reimbursements for food and medicine spoilage to customers without power for three consecutive days or more during the March 2nd and March 7th nor'easters, Con Edison said those customers will also receive an adjustment to their bill that will reflect a one-time reduction to their monthly customer delivery charge. Customers will receive this credit on their bill by May 21st.

Residential customers will receive a credit of about \$3 to \$4 to the customer charge of \$15.76 depending on the length of the outage. For small and medium business customers the

adjustment will be about \$4 to \$6 to the customer charge of \$26.01. Larger commercial customers will receive similar credits based on their service classification.

The reductions in the monthly delivery charge are in addition to reimbursements the company announced March 15th for food and prescription medicine spoilage if they lost power for three consecutive days. Those reimbursements for eligible residential customers amount to \$225 without receipts, or up to \$515 with receipts. Business owners are eligible for food spoilage reimbursements up to \$10,200 with receipts.

Those seeking to file for reimbursements for spoilage can check the company's website here: <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/claim-form>.

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### ***PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY***

Mailbox fishing is the process in which thieves gain entry into the interior of mailboxes and steal mail. The purpose of stealing the mail is to obtain checks, credit/debit/gift cards and other personally identifiable information that would allow the thief and others to gain access to your finances.

You can minimize your chances of falling victim to mail fishing by following the prevention methods:

- Deposit mail in mailboxes as close to the scheduled pick-up time as possible or take it directly to the post office.
- Use pigmented (permanent) ink pens to write out checks. Pigmented ink prevents the altering of checks.
- Keep a record of financial transactions regardless of how they are made in case you need to access the records in the future.

Check washing is a process in which thieves use common household products to alter checks

they stole out of mailboxes. After altering the checks, they then make the checks payable to themselves or other parties. Again, you can avoid falling victim to this by using pigmented ink pens, shredding any voided or incorrectly written checks, and monitoring your account balances to ensure that checks were cleared by the establishment you wrote the check out to. Usually, to avoid being caught, thieves will maintain the original amount of the check and simply change the payee information.

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SOUND THE ALARM

The American Red Cross and the FDNY are partnering to make homes safer by installing 1,000 smoke alarms in Brooklyn between April 28th and May 12th. The Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help with the smoke alarm installation and changing batteries in existing alarms. If you would like to be a volunteer, please register at <https://goo.gl/Kivec3>. Smoke alarms save lives in the event there is a fire; please consider volunteering.

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### ***GOOD NEWS REGARDING LEGISLATION ABOUT REVERSE MORTGAGES***

The New Yorkers for Responsible Lending Mortgage Working Group's sub-group focused on reverse mortgages has some good news to report. Recent budget legislation, passed by both houses of the legislature and due to be signed by Governor Cuomo, did two things with respect to reverse mortgages:

1. It corrects the codification error around the effective date of last year's legislation removing the reverse mortgage exclusion from the definition of "home loan" so that the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law (RPAPL) 1304 (requiring 90 day notice) and Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR) 3408 (regarding settlement conferences) amendments are clearly applicable now and so that those

changes will also remain in effect when the law reverts to the prior version in 2020.

2. The law creates an entirely new and distinct 90-day notice designed specifically for reverse mortgages, to capture the defaults that trigger reverse mortgage defaults. The other aspects of RPAPL 1304 are made applicable to that separate 90-day notice, such as the technical requirements for service, the obligation of the Dept. of Financial Services (DFS) to make a translation available in the top 6 non-English languages and the corresponding obligation of the servicer to provide that notice in those languages to homeowners known to be non-English proficient. The new 90-day notice for reverse mortgage cases will go into effect 30 days after it becomes law.

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BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER JAM

Become a volunteer at Brooklyn Public Library's Summer Jam! Summer Jam will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at all BPL branches with the exception of the Borough Park, Midwood, and Ryder branches, which will have their celebrations on Sunday, June 10th.

Welcome Ambassador Volunteers will welcome and greet patrons; assist with summer reading registration; assist with various arts and crafts activities; and act as community liaisons by promoting programs and services in the library.

For more information, please contact your local library or Volunteer Resources at 718-230-2406.

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### ***BUILD THE BLOCK***

Neighborhood policing seeks to close the divide between cops and community. But it can only succeed with your support. That is why the NYPD has been holding a series of local meetings. These "Build the Block"

neighborhood safety meetings are strategy sessions between local police officers and the people they serve. The meetings have two simple goals: identify the public safety challenges of a specific neighborhood and discuss potential solutions.

The NYPD is taking another important step towards improving trust, collaboration, and safety through neighborhood policing. But they cannot do it without your participation.

Join the discussion about issues in your community. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard about specific safety and policing challenges in your own neighborhood. To locate a meeting in your neighborhood, go to [www.buildtheblock.nyc](http://www.buildtheblock.nyc).

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FREE GRANTS FOR LEAD PAINT REMEDIATION IN PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS

MHANY Management Inc. is a community-based not-for-profit housing organization recently selected by the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to identify and assist private owners who are interested in and might benefit from City programs that could help with the financial and physical needs of their buildings. There are two programs MHANY is working on:

- **HPD's Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Program** that provides free grants to eliminate lead-based paint hazards to eligible owners/buildings.
- **HPD's Landlord Ambassadors Program** that provides technical assistance for owners whose buildings have been identified as "at risk" for tax lien sale or need some type of financial or physical intervention.

MHANY has also been asked to identify superintendents, maintenance staff, contractors,

and painters who may be interested in free training and certification in Lead-Safe Work Practices. Training is offered free of charge through the NYC Dept. of Health.

MHANY is available to help owners complete and submit applications to HPD. Please call Nick or Jake at 718-246-8080 ext. 271 to find out more about these programs and how MHANY can assist you as a small building owner.

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### ***HOUSING WALK-IN CLINIC***

Brooklyn Housing and Family Services of Greater New York is partnering with Senator Jesse Hamilton to offer free housing services clinics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 1 PM, and Thursdays from 1:30 to 5:30 PM at Senator Hamilton's office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn.

Walk-in Clinics will provide assistance with landlord harassment, SCRIE and DRIE applications, lease renewals, unlawful rent increases, and other housing related issues. **Appointments are required.** Please call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700 to schedule an appointment.

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FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH UNDER 24

Senator Jesse Hamilton is offering free and confidential legal services for youth under the age of 24 at his office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn on Mondays, April 23rd, and May 21st. Services include obtaining a copy of your criminal record (RAP sheet), housing and employment discrimination due to a criminal record, tickets to appear in Summons Court, child support issues in Family Court, school suspensions, and legal issues relate to an arrest or conviction.

To schedule an appointment, call 718-284-4700.

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### ***STROKE SCREENING***

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center is offering free stroke screening from **Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** from 11 AM to 1 PM. Screenings will be completed at Kingsbrook Katz Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor (Vascular Lab), 585 Schenectady Avenue (enter on Winthrop Street between Schenectady and 49<sup>th</sup> Street), Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-604-5062.

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FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP

The NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene is hosting a Food Safety Workshop, Practicing "A" Grade Food Safety for business owners in the food and drink industry. An "A" grade means more business, fewer fines, less frequent inspections, and a safer dining experience for customers. The workshop will assist business owners and their staff with learning how to achieve and maintain the highest food safety standards and receive an inspection history report for your establishment.

The Brooklyn workshop will be held on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** from 1:30 PM to 4 PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Founders Hall, Downtown Brooklyn. A workshop will be held in Manhattan on **Tuesday, May 29, 2018** from 1:30 PM to 4 PM at David Dinkins Manhattan Municipal Building located at 1 Centre Street in the Mezzanine.

To register, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/FSWorkshops. For more information, call 646-632-6001.

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### ***BUDGET TOWN HALL***

Join Assemblyman Walter Mosley for a Budget Town Hall on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** from 6:30-7:30 PM on Facebook Live as he discusses the 2018 Enhanced Budget and how it impacts the 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. You will have an opportunity to ask the Assemblyman questions and offer suggestions about the state budget.

Follow along only on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/AssemblymanWalterMosley/](http://www.facebook.com/AssemblymanWalterMosley/). For more information, call the Assemblyman's office at 718-596-0100.

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700 CREDIT SCORE CLUB

Join the office of Brooklyn Borough President, NIA Community Services Network, and Operation HOPE for a three-workshop series to reach your goal of a 700 Credit Score. The free three-week course gives you the tools to reach your financial goals. Obtain a free credit report, credit score, and ongoing individual support.

A mandatory orientation will be held on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 6-8 PM**; session two will be held on **Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 6-8 PM**; and session three will be held on **Wednesday, May 2, 2018 from 6-8 PM**. All three sessions will take place at PS 247 located at 7000 21st Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204.

To register, email Thomas Zaki and Paul Suci at outreach247@niabklyn.org or call 917-757-8684.

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### ***HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND TAX LIEN WORKSHOP***

On **Wednesday, April 18, 2018** from 5:30 to 8 PM, there will be a Housing Assistance and Tax Lien Workshop at Bethany United Methodist

Church located at 1208 St. John's Place (between Albany and Troy Avenues), Brooklyn.

Each year, the Dept. of Finance (DOF) sells tax liens. If your property has unpaid debt that qualifies for a lien sale, DOF can sell your lien debt to an authorized buyer, putting you at risk of losing your home. Fortunately, DOF is holding an outreach event to provide owners with one-on-one assistance with their lien sale questions and issues, and can assist you in setting up a payment plan for your debt to remove your property from the lien sale list.

If you have any questions, please contact Senator Jesse Hamilton's office at 718-284-4700.

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CHNA TOWN HALL MEETING

Join the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018** at 6:45 PM for their Annual Town Hall Meeting at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn. Invited speakers include a representative from the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Ms. Stephanie Zinerman, Co-Chair of Civic Engagement for the Brooklyn NAACP.

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

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### ***STOP N' SWAP***

On **Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 11 Am to 2 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall Plaza (209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn), there will be a Stop N' Swap event. Drop off items from 8 AM at the Greenmarket. This is an outdoor event, but it will be moved indoors in case of inclement weather. Bring clean, reusable, portable items such as clothing,

housewares, electronics, books, and toys that you no longer need. Take home something that is “new to you” for free! **You do not have to bring something to take something.**

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FREE SHREDDING EVENT

The Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) is hosting a free document shredding event on **Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at St. Gregory’s RC Church located at 991 St. John’s Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue), Brooklyn. Shred your papers, important documents with vital information, books, etc. For more information, call 718-774-3834.

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### **TOWN HALL MEETING**

Join 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Leader Ola Alabi for a Town Hall Meeting on **Thursday, April 26, 2018** at 6:30 PM (doors open at 6 PM) at the Teen Challenge Center located at 444 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. There will be presentations by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, Civilian Complaint Review Board, and New York City Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development.

For more information, email District Leader Alabi at [olanike.alabi@gmail.com](mailto:olanike.alabi@gmail.com).

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CPR TRAINING

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center is offering CPR Training on **Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 11 AM to 1 PM**. There is a \$25 fee to the American Heart Association for the certification card. The training session will be held at the Kingsbrook Katz Building, 4th Floor, 585 Schenectady Avenue (enter on Winthrop Street between Schenectady and 49th Street), Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-604-5062.

CIVIC MINDED

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson invites you to get Civic Minded! Please join her every 4th Saturday of the month (next meeting: April 28, 2018) from 2 to 4 PM to discuss issues in the community and create solutions to many of our community’s problems. All meetings are held at MS 61, 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. For more information, contact the Assemblywoman’s office at 718-771-3105.

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### **URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY GATHERING 2018**

The Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its first **Urban Agriculture Community Gathering** on **Sunday, April 29, 2018** from 1 to 3 PM at Walt L. Shamel Community Garden, 1095 Dean Street (near Rogers Avenue), Brooklyn. In the event of rain, the event will be held at the Fort Green Grant Square Senior Center located at 19 Rogers Avenue. For further information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah at [bc8healthfair@gmail.com](mailto:bc8healthfair@gmail.com).

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POLICE ENCOUNTERS FORUM: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

On **Monday, April 30, 2018**, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM, the Foundation Law Committee will present a free program at the Brooklyn Bar Association, 123 Remsen Street, Brooklyn.

The topic will be: Know Your Rights: Police Encounters & Arrests in New York City, presented by Amanda Jack, Esq., a Senior Staff Attorney in the Criminal Defense Practice of Brooklyn Defender Services.

Reservations are not required but are recommended. To RSVP: Contact Jen Bryan at the Brooklyn Bar Association: (718) 624-0675 ext. 209 or email jbryan@brooklynbar.org.

You may also RSVP online:
<https://brooklynbar.org/event/criminal-law-proceedings-new-york-city/>.

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### ***JOB TRAINING FAIR***

The Economic Development Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its **Job Training Fair** on **Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10AM to 1PM and Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 6PM to 9PM**. The fair will be held at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places), Brooklyn.

Get the Training You Need For the Job You Want! Increase your job skills. Increase your income. Change careers to a field you actually want to be in.

Register here to attend:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/job-training-fair-by-community-board-8s-economic-development-committee-tickets-44838450011>.

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YOUTH FAIR

The Youth and Education Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its first **Youth Fair: the Me in We**, on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at P.S. 316, 750 Classon Avenue (between Sterling and Park Places), Brooklyn.

Discussion topics include: 10 Things EVERY Youth Should Know; Financial Literacy; Avoiding Credit Card Abuse; Job/Career Readiness; Civic Education (Voter Registration); Culinary Arts; Adult Education; How to AVOID the Criminal Justice System; Dressing for Success; and Know Your Educational Rights (Adelaide Sanford Institute).

For more information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah at bcb8healthfair@gmail.com.

3RD ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

The Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its **3rd Annual Health Fair: From Survive to Thrive** on **Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place (corner of Washington Avenue), Brooklyn.

Meet and hear the experts on: Mental Health; Elder Care; Nutrition; Chi Kung; Acupuncture; Wills & Trusts; Physical Fitness; Health Screenings; Community Supported Agriculture; and much more. For more information, contact Mr. Kwasi Mensah at bcb8healthfair@gmail.com.

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### ***GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN***

For nearly 25 years, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) has hosted the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest, which has promoted neighborliness and sustainability. By encouraging gardening, street tree care, and civic participation, the contest motivates neighbors to work together to make their blocks more connected, walkable, resilient, and healthy. Prize categories include Best Residential and Commercial Block, Greenest Storefront, Best Street Tree Beds, Best Window Box, and more!

BBG offers free How to Green Your Block workshops along with a small number of Walk-and-Talk block Visits. Visit [www.bbg.org/greenestblock](http://www.bbg.org/greenestblock) to enter and for more information. The deadline to enter the contest is June 1, 2018.

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2018 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is pleased to announce that submissions are now being



accepted for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition through May 2, 2018. Accepted work by students are paintings, drawings, pastels, charcoal, mixed media, prints, collages, computer generated art, and photographs. All entries must meet the following criteria:

- Two dimensional
- No larger than 26 inches wide by 26 inches tall by 4 inches thick and less than 15 pounds
- Work must be original in concept, design, and execution

For more information, please visit www.clarke.house.gov/services/art-competition or contact Reginald Belon at reginald.belon@mail.house.gov or 718-287-1142.

The winning artwork will be displayed in the halls of the US Capitol in Washington DC.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. **Princess Benn-James**, who will celebrate her birthday in the month of April.

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The next 78th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 24, 2018** at 7:30 PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The next 77th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on **Monday, May 14, 2018** Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located at 887 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

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The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 10, 2018** at 7 PM at Union United Methodist Church located at 121 New York Avenue (corner of Bergen Street), Brooklyn, NY.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

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