

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**APRIL 2019**

**VOLUME 41, NO. 4**

## *District Manager's Report*

### *Good News!*

Community Board 8 has recently been informed by the Parks Department that **St. John's Recreation Center should re-open by the end of the month** barring any unforeseen setbacks.

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### *Washington Avenue Safety Improvements*

The NYC Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC) in partnership with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT), has begun the design work for a Washington Avenue Safety Improvement Project. The project includes three locations, including the **intersection of Lowry Triangle, Washington Avenue at Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Street, and Underhill Avenue.**

The proposed project will include intersection improvements including curb/sidewalk extensions and realignments, installations of pedestrian ramps, pavement markings, traffic/pedestrian signals, street lights, bus pads, pavement reconstruction, and other street amenities to meet current design standards.

If you have any concerns, issues, or you can identify other suggestions that should be implemented, your feedback is appreciated. Please email us with your comments at

[brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com) and we will forward them to DDC.

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### *Municipal Services Update*

The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the "scorecard" rating, was **98% for clean streets and 95.2% for sidewalks** for the month of March.

Please note that the Dept. of Sanitation is no longer in snow protocol, and all sections are back on regular day pickup. Unfortunately, there is still an equipment shortage at the garage, which means that due to capacity issues stemming from the shortage, some blocks may have later pickup than normal. **If your garbage is not removed by 1 PM, please call the Community Board 8 office at 718-467-5574 so we can arrange pickup when a truck becomes available.**

We continue to 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 03/25/19 through 03/31/19.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2019         | 2018 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 3            | 1    | 200   |
| Rape           | 4            | 5    | -20   |
| Robbery        | 41           | 28   | 46.4  |
| Felony Assault | 49           | 55   | -10.9 |
| Burglary       | 25           | 41   | -39   |
| Grand Larceny  | 81           | 94   | -13.8 |
| GL Auto        | 11           | 15   | -26.7 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-10.46%**.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through March 2019.

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	27	81
Non-Structural	18	53
Total Fires	45	134
Suspicious Fires	0	4
Non-Medical Emergencies	224	752
Medical Emergencies	327	977
Total Incidents	610	1909

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### **NEWS FROM COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER**

Comptroller Stringer is calling on all New York City dwellers to join a movement to build an equitable government. New York City has convened a commission to review the merits and omissions of the City Charter, and to consider new policies that should be enshrined as law of the land. In order for women and people of color to be fairly and equitably represented throughout government, the economy, and the city, the Comptroller's office

has led a coalition to achieve a Chief Diversity Officer in City Hall and at each City agency.

Comptroller Stringer believes the Charter Revision Commission should ask voters to approve this reform to bring needed focus to issues of wage inequality, employment disparities, and archaic regulations built on systemic discrimination, as he believes that a Chief Diversity Officer for New York City would lead a charge to combat systemic discrimination in municipal government and eliminate inequity throughout the city.

Additionally, Comptroller Stringer has two initiatives of importance for city residents. The first is "Making Rent Count," an initiative geared toward allowing renters to apply their monthly rent payments toward their credit scores, thus reducing the credit score disparity between less wealthy city dwellers and their counterparts. People that pay their rent on time, much like anyone else that pays their other bills on time, should be allowed to have these timely payments reflected on their credit report if it means benefiting them when it comes time to apply for loans, affordable housing lotteries, or any other application that relies on credit scores.

The second initiative is "Taking Action for NYCHA Residents: A Lead Paint Investigation," leading the charge to protect children in NYCHA developments from the dangers of lead poisoning and seeking accountability for those involved in allowing the developments to deteriorate to the point of danger. Comptroller Stringer's investigations of NYCHA are designed to not only point out the issues within the developments, but also set the foundation for future improvements.

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### **NEWS FROM COUNCILMAN ROBERT CORNEGY**

On April 9, 2019, Councilman Robert Cornegy introduced Intro. 1500, a Local Law, that if passed, would require that the Department of

Housing Preservation and Development notify Council Members, prior to the end of each year following the implementation of the affordable housing unit tracking system, of each affordable housing unit in the Council Member's district for which the regulatory agreement has an expiration date in the sixteenth calendar year after the year of notification. In addition, the bill would expand the definition of "expiring affordable housing unit" to include all affordable housing units that will no longer be required to be affordable within five calendar years, which must be reviewed and reported to Council members annually.

If passed, Intro 1500 would greatly assist affordable housing organizations to track how much affordable housing the city is losing each year, and directly find a cause to attribute it to. So far, only Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo has supported Intro 1500, so we urge the community to contact their officials and other members of the Council to support this piece of legislation.

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***FREE SERVICES OFFERED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS***

**Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams** is offering free legal services for all. Legal services are available in the following areas at these times:

**Housing Discrimination for Individuals with Disabilities:** Second Friday of every month from 10 AM to 1 PM.

**Foreclosure Intervention and Prevention:** Second Wednesday of every month from 2 PM to 5 PM.

**Veteran's Issues:** Every Tuesday from 9 AM to Noon.

**Housing Matters, Trusts and Estates, Elder Law, and Government Benefits:** Every second Thursday from 2 PM to 5 PM.

**Domestic Violence:** Third Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Family Law:** First Wednesday of every month from 4 PM to 7 PM.

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment for any of these services. Appointments are required. All services are offered at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

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**Housing and Family Services of Greater New York Inc.**, in conjunction with **Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo**, are also pleased to offer Free Housing Services by appointment.

Do you need help with any of the following:

- Getting repairs from your landlord?
- Adequate heat and hot water?
- Are you under the threat of eviction or harassment?
- Lease renewal issues?
- Unlawful rent increases for rent regulated apartments?

If so, please call 718-435-7585 and speak to John Goss. You can also email Mr. Goss at [JGoss@brooklynhousing.org](mailto:JGoss@brooklynhousing.org) to schedule an appointment. Appointments are available by pre-registration, and will be given on Thursdays from 12 PM to 4 PM at the Shirley Chisholm State Office Building located at 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn.

Also, in conjunction with New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), the Councilwoman is offering free legal assistance. New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) provides free civil legal services to New Yorkers who cannot afford a private attorney. Through its Mobile Legal Help Center, NYLAG is able to offer its legal services on the ground, in the community. Staff aboard the van are able to provide assistance on a wide range of legal issues.

To schedule an appointment, call the Councilwoman's office at 718-260-9191.

**Assemblywoman Diana Richardson** in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn (NHS) is offering Tenant Support on **Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 2 PM**. NHS offers the following resources: landlord and tenant resources; anti-eviction assistance; senior housing; rent arrears and rent subsidies referrals; affordable housing; housing lottery education; and much more.

NHS Brooklyn offers a comprehensive array of services for homeowners, homebuyers, and tenants, including first-time homebuyer education, financial coaching, home repair assistance, home insurance counseling, landlord training, foreclosure intervention, and tenant support services. Most of these services are free to the public.

Labor Services are also being offered at the Assemblywoman's office on **Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Unemployment concerns, training, job seekers, and compliance appointments can be scheduled. Appointments are necessary.

Assemblywoman Richardson is also pleased to offer a Health Insurance Navigator Program on Mondays from 11 AM to 5 PM. Navigator Programs help to simplify the complicated world of selecting the health insurance plan that is right for you and your family. Individuals can qualify for insurance during this special enrollment period due to loss of health insurance (for reasons other than non-payment of premium), divorce or legal separation, birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child in foster care, and marriage or domestic partnership. Small businesses can apply at any time.

For more information on the Navigator Program or to schedule an appointment, call 718-875-9300.

All services are held at Assemblywoman Richardson's office located at 330 Empire Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Brooklyn. Please call 718-771-3105 to

schedule an appointment for free legal or tenant services, or to get additional information.

Also, please consider attending Assemblywoman Richardson's **Civic Minded meetings** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 2-4 PM at 400 Empire Blvd. Important community issues are discussed each month.

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**Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel** is pleased to offer a host of free services for constituents in her office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn.

**Free Immigration Services** are officered by appointment only and are free and confidential.

**Free batteries for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** are available Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM while supplies last. Do not forget to test your alarms to make sure they are working! Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives!

**The Healthy Families Initiative** in conjunction with the Campaign Against Hunger is assisting families in the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District SNAP re-certification, health insurance enrollment, rental assistance, employment assistance, and educational/vocational assistance. Services are offered every Tuesday from 10 AM to 2 PM. An appointment must be scheduled.

**Affordable Housing** services are available every Wednesday from Noon to 5 PM. Learn how to apply, receive step by step assistance preparing your application, and learn more about your rights as a tenant. Receive referrals to other resources such as immigration, public health, legal assistance, and wellness services via the Churches United For Fair Housing (CUFFH) Network. For more information, contact Anita Dos Santos at 347-574-1922.

For more information on any of the services or to schedule an appointment, call 718-953-3097.

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## ***REPAIR PROCEDURES WORKSHOPS***

Is your landlord not doing their job? Learn how to get your issues resolved with step by step practical solutions for getting the repairs you need. Both private landlords and NYCHA repair procedures will be discussed at each repair procedures workshops. Gather legal knowledge and templates, in order to take a landlord to court or use an alternative method to get the necessary results. Attorneys will be available to provide answers. Workshops will be available on the following dates and locations:

**Thursday, May 30, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at Friends of Crown Heights, 671 Prospect Place.

**Thursday, June 27, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at Grand Army Plaza Library, Dweck Center, 10 Grand Army Plaza.

All workshops are sponsored by Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and the Brooklyn Defender Services. For more information, call 718-260-9191.

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## ***EASTER EGG HUNT***

Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, in conjunction with Assemblyman Walter Mosley, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, and Senator Velmanette Montgomery are pleased to present the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 11 AM to 2 PM** at Fort Greene Park (meet at the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument) located at Washington Avenue and Willoughby Avenue.

There will be music, dancing, storytelling, arts and crafts, games, face painting, and photos with the Easter Bunny. In the event of rain, the event will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, call 718-260-9191.

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## ***HOMEOWNERS TOWN HALL***

Are you a homeowner concerned about over-development, scams and deed theft, foreclosure, harassment, pressure to sell, predatory lending, or anything else that affects your property and peace of mind? If so, please consider attending the "Help for Homeowners Town Hall" on **Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at Middle School of Media, Law, and Fine Arts located at 905 Winthrop Street (at E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street), Brooklyn.

Panel discussion will be held from 10 AM to Noon with one-on-one counseling following from Noon to 2 PM. If you seek counseling for any of the above, please bring the following documents:

**Mortgage Assistance:** Identification, last mortgage statement, and proof of income.

**Harassment or Pressure to Sell:** Solicitation letters, photos, videos, any other corroborating evidence.

**Scams/Real Estate Fraud:** Suspicious or confusing paperwork.

**Tenant or Legal:** Legal documents received.

**Property Taxes:** Identification, most recent tax return paperwork, and if applicable, trust, life estate, DD214 (veterans), proof of disability, death certificate.

RSVP to <https://bit.ly/2JCtJPR> or call Brooklyn Community Board 17 at 718-434-3072 for more information.

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## ***JAVA WITH JO ANNE***

Join Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon for a cup of coffee and chat about current events or community issues in the neighborhood. Java with Jo Anne will be held on **Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM** at

Brooklyn Farmacy and Soda Fountain located at 513 Henry Street (between Sackett and Union Streets), Brooklyn.

Please call the Assemblywoman's office at 718-246-4889 if you have any questions.

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### ***CHNA ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING***

The **Crown Heights North Association (CHNA)** will host its **Annual Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 6:45 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). Invited speakers include Simeon Bankoff of the Historic District Council, Yolande Nicolson, Esq., President of the NYS Foreclosure Defense Bar, and Sarah Lazur of the Crown Heights Tenants Union.

For more information, call 718-774-3834.

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### ***FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR***

Neighborhood Housing Services and the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights are offering a **First-Time Homebuyer Seminar on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 6-8 PM** at Crown Heights Apartments, Community Room, 1055 St. John's Place (near Kingston Avenue), Brooklyn.

To register for the seminar, visit <https://bit.ly/2HiDyQK> or call 718-469-4679.

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### ***PROM DRESS AND SUIT DRIVE***

The **Junior League of Brooklyn** is sponsoring a **Prom Dress and Suit Drive** to provide young people with formal attire for senior prom and graduation festivities. Your donations are direly needed. Donations of new or gently used

formal, semi-formal dresses and suits are being accepted. Special requests for plus sized and modest dresses have been made. All donations must be ready to wear and suitable for individuals ages 13 to 18. Dress footwear is also being accepted.

**Please bring donations through April 19, 2019 to one of the following locations:**

**Junior League of Brooklyn** located at 55 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, or

**Brooklyn Borough President's Office** located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn, or

**Assemblywoman Diana Richardson's Office** located at 330 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn.

For more information, email [belle@brooklynjuniorleague.org](mailto:belle@brooklynjuniorleague.org).

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### ***FRIENDS OF BROWER PARK***

The Friends of Brower Park hosts events, workshops, and community activities year round. They are a community of volunteers working with the Parks Department to care for Brower Park's green infrastructure, and is working toward preserving a human connection to the natural world by preserving the park land. The following is a list of upcoming events at the park:

#### **"It's My Park Days"**

#### **Saturdays from 11 AM to 1 PM:**

April 13<sup>th</sup>; May 11<sup>th</sup>; June 15<sup>th</sup>; July 13<sup>th</sup>; August 10<sup>th</sup>; September 14<sup>th</sup>; October 12<sup>th</sup>; November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Sundays from 11 AM to 1 PM:**

April 28<sup>th</sup>; May 26<sup>th</sup>; June 23<sup>rd</sup>; July 28<sup>th</sup>; August 25<sup>th</sup>; September 22<sup>nd</sup>; October 27<sup>th</sup>; November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**“StoryTime in Nature” and “Nature Walk”**  
**Wednesdays at 10:30 AM from May through October.** Nature Walk directly follows Story Time at 11 AM. Both activities are held near the Monarch Butterfly Garden. In the event of rain, Story Time is held at Brooklyn Public Library Brower Park Branch located at 725 St. Marks Avenue.

**Special Events:**

June Bloom Picnic on June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Leaf Crunch in November (date TBD)  
Holiday Tree Lighting on December 7<sup>th</sup>

For more information, visit  
[www.friendsofbrowerpark.org](http://www.friendsofbrowerpark.org) or email  
[contactus@friendsofbrowerpark.org](mailto:contactus@friendsofbrowerpark.org).

***SHRED FEST***

The Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) will be hosting a **Free Shredding Event** on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at St. Gregory’s RC Church located at 991 St. John’s Place, corner of Brooklyn Avenue. All residents can attend to shred papers, documents, books, etc.

For more information, call 718-774-3834.

***SENIOR APPRECIATION EVENT***

The Friends of Brower Park Library is hosting **“Celebrating the Awesomeness of Seniors in our Community!”**, a **Senior Appreciation** event on **Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 11 AM to 2:30 PM** at Brower Park Library located at 725 St. Marks Avenue, between Nostrand and New York Avenue. The event is meant to be both informative and fun, and features a lineup of speakers and includes lunch.

If you are a senior interested in attending, please RSVP by phone to 917-715-9027 or e-mail to [LNote575@gmail.com](mailto:LNote575@gmail.com). When you RSVP, please provide your contact information including full name, and a telephone number or email address.

***SENIOR APPRECIATION BRUNCH AND RESOURCE FAIR***

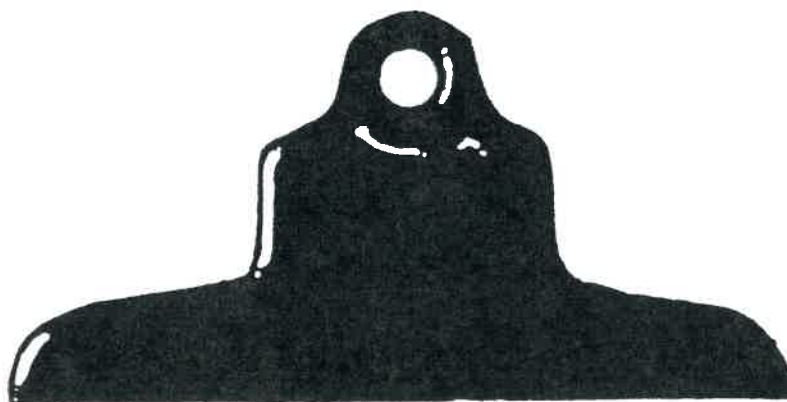
Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo is pleased to present a **Senior Appreciation Brunch and Resource Fair** celebrating our senior “Sheroes and Heroes.” The event will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 11 AM to 2 PM** at Ingersoll Community Center located at 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn.

Information for older adults on Advocacy, Health/Aging, Arts, Housing, Caregiver Support, Legal Services, Continuing Education, Long-Term Care, Cultural Events, Medicare/Medicaid, Services for People with Disabilities, Mental Health Fitness, Safety, SNAP, Senior Centers, Healthcare Transportation, Health Insurance, Volunteering, Homecare Services, and much more, will be available.

For more information, contact Councilwoman Cumbo’s office at 718-260-9191,

***URBAN AGRICULTURAL GATHERING***

The Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to announce its **2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Agricultural Gathering** on **Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM** at Walt L. Shamel Community Garden (Dean Street near the intersection of Bedford and Rogers Avenues). Presentations on composting, greenhouses/hoop houses, sources of seeds, rooftop gardening, beekeeping,



hydroponics, and canning your own food will be made.

For more information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee at [mensahbcb8@gmail.com](mailto:mensahbcb8@gmail.com).

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

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We wish a speedy recovery to **Mr. Yves Vilus, Ms. Julia Boyd, and Ms. Glinda Andrews**.

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We send our **heartfelt condolences** to **Ms. DeShauna Appleton** on the loss of her grandmother.

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 30, 2019** 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 **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, May 13, 2019** 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, May 9, 2019** at **St. Teresa of Avila RC Church** located at **563 Sterling Place (between Franklin and Classon Avenues, Brooklyn** at 7 PM.

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

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

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