

# ACROSS THE BOARD

APRIL 2025

VOLUME 46, NO. 4

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!**

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**



**Mr. Robert Callahan**

was appointed to the Board in 2020. He is the sitting Secretary of the Board and a member of the Housing & Land Use and Public Safety Committees. He is also instrumental in the day to day practices at Imani Community Garden.

Mr. Callahan states, "The role I fill in my community work is often as a facilitator. I believe that advocates for specific issues and community members are both essential to good decision making, but they often see themselves as loggerheads rather than as partners for advocacy."

Mr. Callahan joined the Board at a time when the national conversation was centered around equal justice and police accountability. He showed himself to be a robust advocate for our businesses and making things easier for them to succeed, not harder. Almost immediately as well, he became a valuable source for reliable information about city finances and an honest "broker" facilitating understanding between different community voices.

"In whatever way makes sense, stepping outside and vibrantly participating in your community is the only way that we survive and thrive. Crown Heights is such a special place to live because it has been a place for many internally cohesive communities to coalesce, to articulate what they need to prosper and to advocate forcefully for it. I hope the dialogue continues so we can continue to rise together.

**Municipal Services Update**

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 03/31/2025 through 04/06/2025.

	Year-to-Date		
	2025	2024	%Chg
Murder	0	4	-100
Rape	4	7	-42.9
Robbery	34	42	-19.0
Felony Assault	106	72	47.2
Burglary	34	38	-10.5
Grand Larceny	80	98	-18.4
GL Auto	21	23	-8.7

The overall change year-to-date is **-1.76**.



**A NOTE FROM BK8 SANITATION GARAGE**

The municipal waste employees of the BK8 garage would like to thank all property owners and commercial businesses that not only clean in front of their spaces and 18 inches into the gutter, but also those that participate in the Adopt a Basket program.

Gratitude aside, the agency requests that all establishments participating in the Dining Out program with a street seating area be mindful of their neighbors and trash accumulation in the street around the seating area. The structures cause a 10-foot arc denying access by the sweeper, which can

increase trash on city streets. All participants are asked to work with their neighbors to ensure that all debris is removed, including in the 10-foot arc that cannot be accessed.

Let us all work together to keep our streets clean and beautiful, and most importantly, rodent free.

Finally, all residents should be reminded that mandatory compost separation is in effect. The department will aggressively summons property owners that do not separate their compostable trash.

Buildings with one to eight units would receive a \$25 fine for the first offense. For the second offense, a \$50 fine will be imposed and then an additional \$100 for subsequent offenses.

Buildings with more than nine units could face a \$100 fine for the first offense, then \$200 for the second offense. A \$300 fine will be imposed after the second offense.

The city's participation in organics collection and composting is a way to utilize and convert trash that would otherwise collect in a landfill and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions into something usable including organic compost for gardeners and renewable energy sources. With all residents buying into the program, massive improvements can be made.

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### ***NYC RAISED CROSSWALK PROJECT***

The NYC Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC) has commenced preparing Preliminary and Final Design documents for the Installation of Raised Crosswalk across the five boroughs. The scope of work includes the design and construction of raised crosswalks at priority intersections and pedestrian ramp upgrades.

Raised crosswalks elevate a portion of the roadway to the grade of the sidewalk, providing a level pedestrian path that functions as a speed reducer and calms vehicle traffic. They also increase

pedestrian visibility, further improving street safety conditions, and increase accessibility and mobility by prioritizing pedestrian movement within the built environment. The project may also include incidental work required to accommodate the new raised crosswalks and upgraded pedestrian ramps, such pavement restoration, relocation of streetlight poles, traffic signals, and drainage structures.

There are several locations in District 8 that have been identified as priority intersections. They are:

- Schenectady Avenue at St. John's Place
- St. John's Place at Albany Avenue
- Park Place at Buffalo Avenue
- Prospect Place at Buffalo Avenue
- Park Place at Washington Avenue
- St. Marks Avenue at Ralph Avenue.

Construction is slated to start Summer 2026. To learn more, contact Scott Ruggier at [ruggier@ddc.nyc.gov](mailto:ruggier@ddc.nyc.gov).

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### ***LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP OF CROWN HEIGHTS***

The Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights is offering **FREE beginners and advanced computer classes**. Both courses are 8-weeks and will be held every Tuesday starting May 6, 2025 and ending June 24, 2025. All classes are held from 10:30 AM to Noon, and will take place in the Community Room of Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place.

To register for classes or if you have any questions, please call Carmen Martinez at 718-467-8800.

Additionally, LDC will be hosting a **Rat Academy Training** on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 from 5:30-7:30PM (Community Room, Crown Heights Apartments, 1055 St. John's Place). This event is in-person only and registration is required. Learn about what you can do to help prevent rodents and to reduce their impact around your property. All

attendees will be entered into a raffle to win a rodent-resistant garbage bin. To register, call 718-467-8800, ext 10.



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

Gather your neighbors and enter your block in Brooklyn's friendliest competition! The Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest is free and open to all residential blocks, commercial blocks, and community gardens in Brooklyn.

Participants can attend a free workshop, How to Green Your Block, at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and host a free interactive, walk-and-talk block visit, led by BBG staff, to learn about their block's greening opportunities on either April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, or May 29<sup>th</sup>. Register at [www.bbg.org/learn/community](http://www.bbg.org/learn/community). Contest winners are revealed in August, and dozens of prizes are awarded for greening efforts.

Garden together to make your block more beautiful, friendly, and green!



### ***GET DISCOUNTS ON TOLLS WITH E-ZPASS***

On April 15, a new and improved E-ZPass system will launch, providing an enhanced experience for both E-ZPass and Tolls by Mail customers. Don't forget: The easiest and cheapest way to pay the Congestion Relief toll is with E-ZPass. If you already have an E-ZPass account, make sure it is up to date with your current license plate number as this will be needed for appropriate discounts, exemptions, and crossing credits. If you do not have an account, you can sign up for one at [www.e-zpassny.com](http://www.e-zpassny.com).



### ***FREE HOUSING INFORMATION CLASSES***

The NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is hosting free housing

information classes. If you are a tenant or homeowner in Crown Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant, or Prospect Heights, please join HPD to learn more about city and non-profit housing resources and support.

**NYC Housing Connect: The Affordable Housing Lottery** – Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm  
Edison O. Jackson Auditorium, 1638 Bedford Ave  
NYC Housing Connect is the portal to find and apply for affordable rental and homeownership opportunities across the five boroughs of New York City. Topics covered include:

- What affordable housing is available
- Using NYC Housing Connect to find affordable housing
- How to prepare to apply for affordable housing
- What to expect after applying for affordable housing

**Tenants Know Your Rights** – Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> @6pm, Mary Pinkett Lecture Hall, 1337 Bedford Ave

Learn about the laws and rules that protect tenants from eviction, extra fees, and better understand what's in your lease. What is Rent Control, Rent Stabilization, and the new Good Cause Eviction Law? Learn your rights, clear up misconceptions, and learn more about landlord responsibilities.

**Owning a Home in NYC** – Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> @6pm

Mary Pinkett Lecture Hall, 1337 Bedford Ave  
All the various departments and regulations can make homeowners dizzy. HPD officials will sort them all out for you, tell you who does what and where to go with concerns, problems, or questions. Learn the basics of owning a home in New York City, including the roles of key City agencies and what they require.

This class presented by the HPD Office of Neighborhood Strategies is intended for homeowners.

These events are all part of a series of housing information events for the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan – a community-led planning process for an inclusive, mixed-use stretch of Atlantic Avenue and neighboring blocks in Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant. They are presented by Council Member Hudson, Council Member Osse, NYC Dept of Housing Preservation and Development, NYC Dept of City Planning, the Dubois Bunche Center at Medgar Evers College, and NYC Public Schools District 17.

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### ***MERCHANT ORGANIZING GRANTS AND BID FORMATION GRANTS***

The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched two grant programs to help catalyze merchant organizing and Business Improvement District (BID) formation across New York City.

The [\*\*FY26 Merchant Organizing Grant\*\*](#) will fund nonprofit organizations to support commercial districts and merchants associations across New York City. Applicants must propose place-based projects and services that aim to form new merchants associations or revitalize existing merchants associations in a specific neighborhood. The FY26 Merchant Organizing Grant will fund **up to \$100,000 per neighborhood** to nonprofit organizations to lead merchant organizing efforts. Grant work will be implemented between July 2025 and June 2026. Grants will be awarded through a competitive application process.

Community-based organizations who wish to form new merchants associations or revitalize existing merchants associations should apply. **Applications close on Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 11:59 PM.**

Additionally, the **Avenue NYC Commercial Revitalization Grants fund** is open. This grant funds community-based development organizations (CBDOs) to carry out programs targeting commercial districts in low and moderate

income communities. In City Fiscal Year 2026, the program will include:

- Grants of up to \$100,000 in the first year, and up to \$125,000 per year in the second and third year, for a maximum possible award of \$350,000.
- Dedicated funding for a full-time program manager
- Assistance for grantees to complete a Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA)
- In-depth group trainings and capacity building support

Findings from the CDNA will help grantees to assess neighborhood needs and implement impactful, data-driven projects.

Those encouraged to apply are:

- Nonprofit community-based development organizations (BIDs, local development corporations, merchant associations, and other organizations) operating in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods within the five boroughs of New York City
- Nonprofit organizations incorporated in New York State
- Organizations compliant with annual State and Federal filing requirements.

The application deadline is also April 20<sup>th</sup>. To learn more or to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/4jpOt9f>.

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### ***EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS***

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally through earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is **OUR POWER, OUR PLANET**, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind

Don't miss **Planning for Brooklyn's Climate Future** on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:15AM to 5:30PM at Brooklyn Brough Hall (209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn). The event is a day of panels and presentations bringing together organizers, advocates, and experts advancing a healthy, sustainable future for our borough and city.

To RSVP, visit [www.bit.ly/BKCLM25](http://www.bit.ly/BKCLM25).

Finally, on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-8PM, BP Reynoso in collaboration with Councilmember Lincoln Restler will be hosting a **Sustainable Building Resource Fair** at Boro Hall.

Get expert advice about incentives, financing, and tax credits; talk to experienced contractors; learn about solar panels, weatherization, heat pumps, and more; attend a workshop to help you plan your building project.

This event is for buildings of all sizes, whether you are looking to decarbonize a small brownstone or undertake a major upgrade on a large building. To RSVP, visit [www.bit.ly/bksustainablebuildings](http://www.bit.ly/bksustainablebuildings).

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**NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILMEMBER CRYSTAL HUDSON**

The Office of Council Member Crystal Hudson has been working with nearly one dozen community partners to organize its second annual Spring Senior Series. The office has organized eight weeks (March 21 to May 9) of programming specifically to meet the needs and interests of older adults. From film screenings and dance classes to museum tours and fitness classes, older adults in District 35 and the greater Central Brooklyn area will have the opportunity to take part in free programming and enjoy the rich cultural institutions that service the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Prospect Heights.

For a full line-up of activities, visit <https://council.nyc.gov/crystal-hudson/sss25/>.

**NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILMEMBER CHI OSSE**

The office of Councilmember Chi Osse is pleased to present the following:

**Tax Lien Resources:** More than one thousand properties in District 36 alone are on the tax lien sale. Property owners must take action before May 19<sup>th</sup> to remove their property from the list. To this end, the member's office is working with the NYC Dept. of Finance on a Tax Lien Sale Workshop on April 22<sup>nd</sup> (5-8PM). Property owners can learn about the different options available to them. Both workshops will be held at 1368 Fulton Street in the Multipurpose Room.

**Family Law Clinics:** June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 4PM

Individual and confidential legal consultation on issues ranging from child/spousal support; custody/visitation; orders of protection; assistance and options for victims of abuse; issues regarding consumer debt and identity theft; much more.

**Free Legal Advice (including legal Immigration Advice):** 10AM to 5PM on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Consult with an experienced civil attorney. Appointments encouraged but walk-ins welcome.

Unless otherwise stated, all services will be offered at the member's office located at 1360 Fulton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 500. To register for legal advice, call 718-919-0740.

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**NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILWOMAN DARLENE MEALY AND  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN LATRICE WALKER**

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy and Assemblywoman Latrice Walker invites you to a FREE family Easter Weekend on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from Noon to 4 PM. Starting at Noon, meet at Zion Triangle (Betsy Head Park—Pitkin Avenue and Legion Street) for an Easter Parade. Then from 1-4PM, participate in the Great Egg

renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

Join one of the many Earth Day celebrations across the city! Below are just a few of the celebrations around the district.

### **North Flatbush Avenue BID**

Join the North Flatbush Avenue BID on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 3PM at the Pacific Bears Community Garden located at 150 Flatbush Avenue. Enjoy live performances from local artists Batala New York and The Old Grimes, recycle your old electronics with WALTER, and explore fun, engaging activities focused on sustainability and green living.

### **Brower Park**

The Friends of Brower Park is a purely volunteer run non-profit organization in Crown Heights Brooklyn that helps to maintain the park with regular service activities where we have an official Monarch Butterfly Habitat and a leaf mold compost bin. They host FREE educational and community events to encourage green living and care for our natural environment.

Friends of Brower Park invites you to participate in their "It's Not Easy Being Green" Eco-Fair to be held in conjunction with their Earth Day Fun Day event on Sunday, April 27, 2025 from 1pm-5pm. As part of the Eco-Fair, several agencies and community organizations will have tables with information. There will also be gardening and composting service activities, bicycle safety checks, arts and crafts, story time, and a plant and seed swap.

Brower Park is located on Park Place between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues.

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### ***POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR A DAY ESSAY CONTEST***

All New York City high school students are invited to participate in the annual NYC Emergency Management "Commissioner for a Day" essay contest. Entrants must submit an original essay and complete an application. NYC Emergency Management Commissioner, Zach Iscol, will select the winner who will be invited to NYC Emergency Management headquarters to participate in the Commissioner for a Day Award Ceremony and take part in the John D. Solomon Fellowship Graduation event.

The essay contest is open to all New York City high school students enrolled in grades 9-12 and attending schools located within the five boroughs of New York City. Deadline: All entries must be submitted by April 20, 2025 and should be emailed to [ready@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:ready@oem.nyc.gov) with the subject line "Commissioner for a Day Essay Contest." All submissions must include the application form signed by the student. If the student is under 18 years of age, the application form must be signed by the student's parent/guardian.

Each submission will be evaluated based on the following: Response to the call of the question; original ideas posed by the student; creativity of the submission; spelling and grammar; adherence to all submission requirements.

For more information and full application/instruction manual as well as essay topic question, visit <https://on.nyc.gov/4ctkcUL>.

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### ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANTONIO REYNOSO***

In the age of AI, digital and online fraud has become more aggressive and sophisticated. Learn when to spot it and how to protect yourself. On **Tuesday, April 15, 2025** from 2 to 4PM, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso will host a **Fraud Risk Prevention 101** event. The event will be held at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Courtroom, Downtown Brooklyn.

Hunt in the Betsy Head Field (Strauss Street and Dumont Avenue).

Additionally, join the councilwoman on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 11AM to 12:30PM for her Community Advisory Board meeting that will be held at Uncommon Excellence Boys 225 Patchen Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11233.

As a reminder, the members offer a food pantry 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 11AM to 1PM in front of their office at 400 Rockaway Avenue (at Pitkin Avenue).

For more information on any of the events, please call 718-953-3097.

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### ***PRESERVING CULTURE THROUGH STORYTELLING***

African Mermaid, in collaboration with RescuePoetix and the Laundromat Project are pleased to present “Preserving Culture Through Storytelling—A Gathering of Elders in the Bed-Stuy Community: Exploring Oral History, Culture, and Tradition.” The event will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 2- 4PM at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn.

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### ***PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE UPDATES***

Prospect Park is home to Brooklyn’s last remaining upland forest, over 30,000 trees, and countless native species of plants and wildlife. In November 2024, we all felt how much our cherished woodlands mean to our Brooklyn community when we experienced unprecedented drought conditions and a 2-alarm fire in a core two acres of our beloved woodland Ravine. The fire damaged all three layers of forest in the area, including overstory trees, smaller midstory trees and shrubs, and herbaceous ground cover. Thanks to an outpouring of support from the community, Prospect Park Alliance has kicked off their ongoing work to restore the site of the fire.

PPA has begun stabilizing the area with biodegradable mesh and seeding with native plants, the first steps of a multi-year restoration effort.

Commemorate a loved one and plant community trees at Prospect Park Alliance’s annual Arbor Day planting event on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Alliance’s arborist chooses the species and location of the trees, and all donors and their honorees are invited to participate in the tree planting on the morning of Arbor Day. By joining, you will not only help raise critical funds towards their mission to sustain, restore, and advance Prospect Park, but you will also participate in an ideal way to honor and celebrate your loved ones in a communal setting.

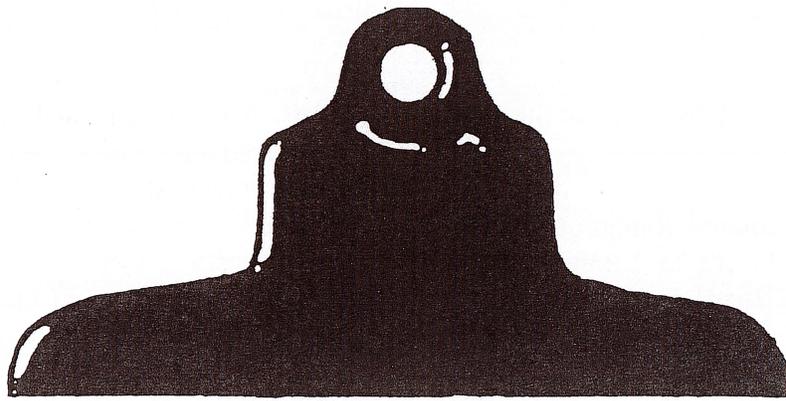
For more information, visit <https://www.prospectpark.org/>.

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### ***CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH ASSOCIATION***

The Crown Heights North Association’s (CHNA) Annual Town Hall Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:45PM at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum (145 Brooklyn Avenue)**. The topic of discussion is “Whose Community? OUR Community!” Expressly, the question of “who shapes our neighborhoods and makes the decisions that impact our daily lives?” Join CHNA and invited speakers from Community Board 8 to discover the benefits of community partnership and activity. Additionally, graduate students in the Pratt graduate program for Historic Preservation will present their Crow Hill study.

Additionally, on **Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 9 AM to Noon at St. Gregory’s RC Church (999 St. John’s Place, corner of Brooklyn Avenue)**, CHNA will have a free shredding event. **Protect your private information and identity.** Bring your documents and papers and have them shred for free.



### **MY SISTERS KEEPER CLOTHING DONATION**

My Sister's Keeper (MSK) is a NYC Department of Education Initiative for young girls. The organization is asking for support with clothing donations to redistribute to youths in Brooklyn.

They are collecting prom attire and accessories to support students who might need a little extra help to shine on their special night. Your generous donations can make all the difference! Accepted donations include formal dresses, shoes, suits, accessories, ties, dress shirts, hijabs, abayas, and anything else that might help make prom an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Drop off your items at Edward R. Murrow High School in Room 109 during March and April, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-3:00pm. For more information, please reach out to Ms. Contreras at [DContreras5@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:DContreras5@schools.nyc.gov).

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Princess Benn-James, Ms. Lisa Moldanado, and Ms. Kimberly Watson, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of April.

The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7PM at Calvary Community Church, 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue).

The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at Chelsea Piers Prospect Heights, 601 Dean Street, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.



Special thanks to Big-Reuse and the members of the CB8 Parks, Youth & Education Committee on efforts to spruce up tree beds on Eastern parkway on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

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