

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 40, NO. 2

A Word from the District Manager

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

|                         | Month | YTD |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| Structural Fires        | 32    | 32  |
| Non-Structural          | 37    | 37  |
| Total Fires             | 69    | 69  |
| Suspicious Fires        | 5     | 5   |
| Non-Medical Emergencies | 425   | 425 |
| Medical Emergencies     | 290   | 290 |
| Total Incidents         | 821   | 821 |

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 01/29/18 through 02/04/18.

	Year-to-Date		
	2018	2017	%Chg
Murder	0	0	*
Rape	1	3	-66.7
Robbery	12	19	-36.8
Felony Assault	23	26	-11.5
Burglary	15	26	-42.3
Grand Larceny	41	34	20.6
GL Auto	6	7	-14.3

The overall change year-to-date is -14.8 %.

The scorecard rating for the month of January was **84% for streets and 94.3% 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 our District clean.

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***GREAT NEWS!***

If your child turns 3 or 4 this year, it is time to start thinking about pre-school. The NYC Department of Education is now accepting pre-kindergarten applications for the 2018-2019 school year. The city's Pre-K for All program guarantees every 4-year-old a space in a full-day pre-kindergarten classroom from September to June. Anyone with a child born in 2014 can apply from now until March 30, 2018.

Parents of 3-year-olds living in any of six school districts can also apply now for the city's **"3-K for All"** program, which aims to get kids started in school a year earlier. Applications for kids born in 2015 are due May 11, 2018.

Those classes will be available next school year in Districts 4 and 5 in Manhattan, District 7 in the Bronx, Districts 16 and 23 in Brooklyn, and District 27 in Queens.

Visit [www.nyc.gov/education](http://www.nyc.gov/education) to apply or for more information.

## ***WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP DURING A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY?***

New York City Community Emergency Response Teams (NYC CERT) are groups of dedicated volunteers who help to prepare their neighbors and communities for different types of disasters. NYC CERT falls under the Community Outreach unit within New York City Emergency Management, the City's coordinating agency for organizations and agencies involved in emergency planning, education, and information dissemination.

Emergency services personnel are the best equipped to respond to disasters. NYC CERT volunteers are trained to support the efforts of New York City's first responders. During non-emergency times, NYC CERTs educate their communities about emergency preparedness by working with the Ready New York program and build community disaster networks through the NYC Citizen Corps program.

All NYC CERT members are required to undergo an intensive 10-week training program that raises awareness about emergencies and disasters and provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

Held on consecutive evenings for 10 weeks within one of the five boroughs, classes are approximately three hours long and are interactive with relevant emergency and disaster discussions and group-building activities based on the Incident Command System (ICS). NYC CERT instructors are active FDNY, NYPD, and NYC Emergency Management personnel.

Upon completion of the 10 weeks of training, volunteers are invited to a formal graduation ceremony and proceed to join their local CERT and support their communities by assisting with emergency education and response.

If you are interested in becoming a CERT member, visit

[http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/community\\_business/nyc-cert-join.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/community_business/nyc-cert-join.page).

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FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION AND TIPS

In an effort to inform New Yorkers about the dangers of fires and how best to act if in one, the FDNY has published the following 7 tips:

1. Never use an extension cord with large current appliances such as a space heater, air conditioner or refrigerator. Extension cords can cause home fires by overheating due to overloading the outlet.
2. Never smoke while lying down, especially if drowsy, medicated or have been drinking. Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding. Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.
3. Stay in the kitchen while cooking and wear short or tight fitting sleeves. Unattended cooking accounts for thirty-three percent of home fires.
4. Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire in half. Install smoke alarms on every floor and in bedrooms for extra protection. 70% of fire deaths occur in homes with an inoperable smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present. The majority of the deaths are children and older adults.
5. Plan and practice a fire escape plan. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Get out and **CLOSE THE DOOR** behind you. Call 911 from a safe location. Smoke and fire kills! You may have less than three minutes to get to safety.
6. Store matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children. Provide close continuous supervision of children. Toddler fire deaths are most often due to children playing with matches or utility lighters.
7. Never leave burning candles unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20 years of age.

Following these simple 7 tips could save your life and others as well as protect your property. Be aware, be smart, and most importantly, be safe.

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### ***PROTECT YOUR WATER METER AND PIPES FROM FREEZING***

Most water meters and pipes are in basements, crawl spaces, and other unheated areas where cold winter temperatures could cause them to freeze. Homeowners are responsible for protecting meters and pipes from freezing. If the meter freezes and breaks because you failed to take reasonable steps to protect it, DEP will repair or replace the meter and bill you for the cost. If the service line or piping freezes and breaks, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have repairs made by a licensed plumber.

Some tips and suggestions to prevent freezing:

- Repair broken and cracked windows, doors, and walls
- Install storm windows on basement windows
- Tightly close doors and windows to the outside
- Insulate outside walls and eliminate drafts from crawl spaces
- Turn off water to outside faucets, remove hoses, and drain the pipes
- Insulate your pipes and meters. You may need to contact a licensed plumber to see which materials to use.
- If you are going to be away from home for several days during cold weather, arrange to have someone visit periodically to turn on a faucet to ensure that the water is still flowing

If your service line, pipes, or meters freeze, keep in mind:

- Open a faucet near the frozen point to release vapor from melting ice
- Direct a hair dryer or heat lamp at the frozen section or put a small space heater nearby

- NEVER thaw a frozen pipe or meter with an open flame. This is not only a fire hazard, but could also cause a steam explosion and significant injury
- If you are unable to thaw the frozen pipe yourself, consult a licensed plumber.

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HUNGER AND BODY ISSUES: SILENT KILLERS

For many Americans, the prospect of a full stomach is but a mere dream. The latest numbers indicate that at least 1 in 7 Americans are hungry (the numbers might even be higher for those families and individuals not eligible for food stamps), and the majority of the hungry are either children or the elderly. In New York City, hunger is a legitimate threat. Quality affordable healthy food is scarce in many underserved and less wealthy communities, and "food deserts" prevail in many areas across the city.

On the opposite side of the spectrum are those that have access to food and willingly put themselves in a position to be hungry because of an eating disorder due to negative body and self-images. Eating disorders have reached new heights as new and almost impossible to reach beauty standards have become normalized by society. Randomized clothing sizes for girls and women exacerbate the problem and help foster these negative self-images as manufacturers deviate from normal sizing, thus causing average women to feel fat because the label on their clothing says a displeasing number, all while not knowing that these sizing labels are completely arbitrary.

So what can we do to combat both hunger and eating disorders? The first thing we can do is recognize the problem to start creating solutions. With SNAP benefits and Meals on Wheels at risk of being further reduced at the Federal level and are losing their funding, we must put pressure on our federal elected officials to make an end to hunger in the United

States as much of a priority as they place on ending hunger in countries around the world.

Second, we need to stop stigmatizing those that may not be as blessed as some of us financially. Many people that are hungry are too afraid to come forward, and children are even chastised by their peers for needing free school lunch. Educate your children that differences abound, yet we are all equal. No one chooses to be hungry, and children have no way to remediate their family's financial condition.

Third, parents: observe your children, both male and female. Males are not exempt from eating disorders, contrary to popular belief. Make sure they are eating. If they are exhibiting signs of ill health for no apparent reason (ashen skin, sunken eyes, lethargy, emotional distance, changes in mood, etc.) or do not seem to be consuming a decent amount of sustenance daily, **do not be afraid to ask questions!** Take an active role in your child's life. If you notice changes in eating patterns, notice that your child goes to the bathroom immediately after every meal, eat smaller than normal portions, or simply refuses to eat at all, get help immediately as they may be showing indications of an eating disorder. Psychological counseling should not be scoffed at, and your child should not be ashamed to seek it.

We must all do our part in stopping hunger related issues, whether because of poverty or poor body and self-images. We can donate to our local food banks, not criticize the poor, check in on seniors to make sure they have enough to eat or help them enroll in a program such as Meals on Wheels, and speak to youth to make sure they are doing well and know with certainty that there is nothing wrong with them as they are and that they do not have to fit this "normalized beauty standard" to be considered beautiful. Hunger is the silent killer that many of us ignore. Ignorance is not bliss, however. Let us work together to stop hunger.

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## ***FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR ALL***

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is pleased to provide free legal services of various types at "The People's House" at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. The following services are available:

- **Housing Discrimination for Individuals with Disabilities: Second Friday of every month from 10 AM to 1 PM**
- **Foreclosure Intervention and Prevention: Second Wednesday of the month from 2 PM to 5 PM**
- **Housing Matters, Trusts and Estates, Elder Law, and Government Benefits: Second Thursday of the month from 2 PM to 5 PM**
- **Veteran's Issues (including housing, benefits, VA claims, discharge updates): Every Tuesday from 9 AM to 12 PM.**
- **Domestic Violence: Third Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM**
- **Family Law (including custody, visitation, child support): Wednesdays from 4 PM to 7 PM**

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment for these services. **Appointments are required.**

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NOTICE OF PROPERTY VALUE EVENT

The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Finance and NYC Tax Commission invite you to Notice of Property Value Event on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 10 AM to Noon and again on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 6 to 8 PM** at Brooklyn borough Hall, Courtroom, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

At the event, you can consult with the NYC Dept. of Finance or NYC Tax Commission to discuss your property; ask questions about your property's assessed and market values; learn

how to dispute your property's assessed value; learn how to get your property description changed (e.g., number of units in your building or square footage); learn about exemptions and how to apply for them.

To RSVP, call 718-802-3700 or email cassistance@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

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***BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLERGY  
EVENT***

Borough President Eric Adams is pleased to present a Black History Month Clergy Event on **Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 10 AM** at the Billie Holiday Theater, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. To RSVP, please call 718-802-4875 or email [clergy@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:clergy@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

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***STRUGGLING WITH STUDENT LOAN
DEBT?***

The Dept. of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment, in partnership with Bed Stuy Restoration Corp and New York Legal Assistance Group, is pleased to offer a free student loan debt clinic on **Friday, February 16, 2018 from 10 AM to 4 PM** at Bed Stuy Restoration, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. At the clinic, you will be able to get free confidential one-on-one financial counseling with a professional financial counselor as well as a free consultation with a legal aid professional.

Walk-ins will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis. To RSVP, visit www.brooklynclinic.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit, www.nyc.gov/dca.

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***MAAFA 2018 "HUMAN CARGO"***

MAAFA 2018, "Human Cargo," will allow you to hear stories of triumph over tragedy, and

explore the questions of how far have we really come...? There are millions of compelling narratives waiting to be told. Witness the creativity of Hendry Box, Journey to Freedom; The Determination to Survive, Placage, Free Women of Color; and The Courage of Rev. Gabriel Prosser, who led one the first insurrections.

Experience the MAAFA! The event will be held on **Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7 PM and again on Friday, February 23, 2018 at 7 PM**. Directed by Michelle Hawkins Jones; written by Kenya Cagle; choreographed by Jamel Gaines. MAAFA will be performed at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church located at 212 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn. Call 718-388-3900, visit [www.mountpisgahny.com](http://www.mountpisgahny.com), or email [incarn@mtpisgahny.com](mailto:incarn@mtpisgahny.com) for more information.

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***2018 BLACK HISTORY LUNCHEON
"GENEALOGY: IN SEARCH OF OUR
ROOTS"***

The Committee for African Americans in Transit (CAAT) is pleased to present 2018 Black History Luncheon: "Genealogy: In Search of Our Roots" on **Friday, February 23, 2018 at Noon** at 2 Broadway, 20th Floor Board Room. This event is meant to honor the past and inspire the future.

For more information, contact Ms. Nizjoni Granville at nizjoni@gmail.com or call Ms. Cheryl Hamilton at 646-252-3546 or Ms. Solenia Gillens at 646-252-3770.

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***CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY "OURSTORY"  
EXPERIENCE***

NOLA-D Collective presents a Children's Community Black "Ourstory" Experience, a fun learning experience for children learning the Black Story during Black History Month. The event will be held on **Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 2 to 5 PM** at Restoration Plaza,

Community room 2, 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. There will be skits, music, African dancing, arts and crafts, and children items for sale.

For more information, email [info@noladcollective.com](mailto:info@noladcollective.com) or visit [www.noladcollective.com](http://www.noladcollective.com).

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FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Senator Jesse Hamilton, in partnership with Youth Represent: Justice from Courtroom to Community, is offering free and confidential legal services for youth 24 years and younger. Services will offered at Senator Hamilton's office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn.

Dates are **Mondays February 26th, March 26th, April 23rd, and May 21st, 2018**. Services include obtaining a copy of your criminal record (RAP sheet), housing and employment discrimination because of a criminal record, tickets to appear in Summons Court, child support issues in Family Court, school suspensions, and legal issues related to an arrest or conviction.

Appointments are necessary. To schedule an appointment, please call 718-284-4700.

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### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2018: THE URGENCY OF NOW!**

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzales celebrates Black History Month: The Urgency of Now! on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 6 to 8 PM** at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street (between Clinton and Court Streets), Downtown Brooklyn. RSVP to [communityaffairs@brooklynda.org](mailto:communityaffairs@brooklynda.org) or call 718-250-3888.

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STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2018

Assemblyman Walter Mosley invites you to the State of the District 2018 on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 6 to 8 PM** at St. Joseph's College, 245 Clinton Avenue (between Willoughby and DeKalb Avenues), Brooklyn. Please RSVP to daviselliotg@nyassembly.gov or call 718-596-0100. This event is free and open to the public.

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### **CIVIC MINDED**

Get Civic Minded with Assemblywoman Diana Richardson! Civic Minded is a discussion group that connects constituents, neighborhood associations, tenant associations, block associations, and merchants associations, and allows for open discussions of issues within the assembly district.

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 2 PM – 4 PM** at 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. Call the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105 for more information.

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TRAINING PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Retraining Program for Immigrant Engineers

The Cooper Union Albert Nerken School of Engineering is accepting applications for the Spring 2018 semester. Classes are held evenings and weekends and designed to help immigrants rebuild their careers in the United States.

Offered classes are heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration; building operation, maintenance and safety regulations; national electrical code and its applications; bridge, highway, tunnels, and buildings; professional practice for cost estimating; AISC structural steel design; ACI structural concrete

design; introduction to AutoCAD for engineers; 3D AutoCAD and Revit; green building guidelines and environmental safety; PSHA 20 for construction; data architecture principles, data structure and SQL; Java programming; Microsoft, .Net and C#; software quality assurance-manual testing; software quality assurance-automated testing; Linux (UNIX) administration; and Android software development.

The program welcomes immigrant professionals who are work authorized in the U.S.; have educational credentials and profession experience in engineering, chemistry, information technology, or a related field; and that demonstrate a financial need. Job placement assistance is provided to all graduates.

For more information and to apply, visit www.cooper.edu/immigrant-retraining. **Courses are free for those who qualify.**

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### **Henry Street Settlement**

The Henry Street Settlement (HSS) Young Adult Internship Program is starting its Spring Cohort on March 19, 2018. They are recruiting youth who are looking to get back to work or school while working in a 3-month paid internship and training with HSS advisers at the Workforce Development Center.

If you know someone between the ages of 17 and 24 that is looking to take the next step in their career or education, please share this information with them. Information sessions are held every Tuesday and Wednesday at 11AM at 99 Essex Street in Manhattan. Payment is \$13/hour.

For more information, email [yaip@henrystreet.org](mailto:yaip@henrystreet.org) or call or text 646-939-5058. You can apply online directly by visiting [www.henrystreet.org/hustle](http://www.henrystreet.org/hustle).

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DAR Occupational/Physical Therapy Scholarship

The Occupational/Physical Therapy Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, is awarded to two students who are in financial need and have been accepted or are attending an accredited school of occupational therapy (including art, music, or physical therapy). All applicants must be citizens of the United States and must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university in the United States.

For more information, visit, www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships/n...

The deadline to apply is February 15, 2018.

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### ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

#### **Traffic Enforcement Agent (Exam No. 8324)**

Filing fee: \$47; file through 2/28/18

#### **Motor Vehicle Operators at CUNY, H+H, and other City Agencies**

Filing fee: \$54; file through 2/28/18

#### **Environmental Police Officer (Exam No. 8320)**

Filing fee: \$61; file through 6/30/18

For more information on any of these positions, qualifications, or to apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs).

#### **NYS Information Technology Specialist I and II (Exam No. 20-786 and 20-788)**

Open filing, no fee. Pay range \$44K-\$70K.

Qualifications are posted online. Minimum education and experience required. Visit <http://on.ny.gov.2mY9b5>.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Mr. Fred Frazier, Ms. Atim Oton, Mr. Robert Puca, and Mr. Yves Vilus**, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of February.



We are pleased to report that Mr. Matthews, former Chairperson of Community Board 8 and long-time member, is recovering and doing really well. He expects to be home within the next few weeks. He is currently rehabbing in the Atrium Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located at 611 East 103rd Street (bet. Glenwood and Farragut Roads), Room 311, Brooklyn. Get well wishes can be sent to his home at 578 Ralph Avenue, Apt A1, Brooklyn, NY 11233.

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The next Crown Heights North Association General Membership Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:45 PM** at St. Gregory the Great RC Church located at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue and St. John's Place, Brooklyn. Invited speakers are Kwasi Mensah and Mark Thurton, members of Community Board 8's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Team. There will be a presentation on Community Emergency Disaster Preparedness.

Contact CHNA, Inc. at 718-774-3834 or email [info@crowheightsnorth.org](mailto:info@crowheightsnorth.org) for more information.

Also, SAVE THE DATE! At some time in early March 2018, CHNA will host a meet and greet. Keep your calendars open and watch for the announcement.

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The next 77th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Monday, February 12, 2018** Kol Israel, located at 603 St John's Place

(between Franklin and Classon Avenues), Brooklyn at 7 PM.

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The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018** 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 Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 8, 2018** at 7 PM at 1000 Dean Street (between Classon and Franklin Avenues), Brooklyn.


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

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**Michelle George, Dist. Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Melanie Grant, Community Assistant**

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Like us on  [facebook/Community Board 8](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBoard8)  
Sign up for **NextDoor** at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).