

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2025

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**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT!**

District Manager's Report

Municipal Services Update



Dr. Sarah Lazur

was appointed to the Board in 2019. She is the President of the Crown Heights Tenants Union and currently serves on the CB8 Housing & Land Use and Environment, Sanitation, and Transportation Committees.

Dr. Sarah Lazur states, "I first encountered Community Board 8 when I started attending the Housing and Land Use committees in 2018, and got the opportunity to help put together a Housing Workshop and Resource Fair. It was here that I learned the value of the community board and the impact the board has on the community.

Through organizing with the Crown Heights Tenant Union, and through her participation in CB8, Dr. Lazur strives to empower tenants to fight for safe and dignified housing conditions and against displacement pressures, and to amplify tenant voices that struggle to be heard by city agencies and officials. She also cites the great opportunity to learn more about city processes and neighborhood history and utilizing this information and opportunity to share and understand the needs of both tenants' and small homeowners' struggles.

Dr. Lazur hopes that tenant participation in CB8 committees and meetings can grow in the future to help better understand displacement pressures to work better as a cohesive unit to protect the value of the New York we know and love.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 02/03/2025 through 02/09/2025.

	Year-to-Date		
	2025	2024	%Chg
Murder	0	1	-100
Rape	3	1	200
Robbery	14	20	-30
Felony Assault	39	32	21.9
Burglary	16	20	-200
Grand Larceny	32	37	-13.5
GL Auto	10	14	-28.6

The overall change year-to-date is **-8.8**.

HEAT SEASON

Building owners are legally required to provide heat and hot water to their tenants. Hot water must be provided 365 days per year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat must be provided between October 1st and May 31st. Between the hours of 6:00am and 10:00pm, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am, the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you are a tenant without heat or hot water, contact your landlord first. This is the easiest way to resolve a housing quality issues. If your landlord is unresponsive, file a complaint by calling 311 or using the 311 app.

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### ***IMMIGRATION RIGHTS WHEN INTERACTING WITH I.C.E.***

There is a lot of fear in New York City's immigrant community at this time. Fear can be combatted with knowledge. Know your rights! (Brought to you by Congresswoman Yvette Clarke)

- You have the **right to remain silent and to contact an attorney.**
- You have the **right to due process and to have your case heard before a judge.**

#### **If you interact with law enforcement or ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):**

- Do not volunteer ANY information.
- You do not need to provide your immigration status or place of birth.
- Do not show or use any false or fraudulent documentation, including a fake name.
- You do not have any obligation to sign any document without speaking to an attorney. **Do not sign a document you do not understand.**
- **Ask to see a warrant** before you open the door, should ICE visit your home or place of work.
- Remember, anything you tell an officer can be later used against you in immigration court.

#### **If you have been arrested and are facing a deportation order:**

- You generally have the right to a hearing to challenge a deportation order, unless you have signed something that waives your right to a hearing or have opted for a voluntary departure.
- If you are told you do NOT have the right to see an immigration judge, you should speak with a lawyer immediately.
- You have the right to an attorney, but the government does not have to provide one for you. There may be free or low-cost alternatives available. If you fear prosecution or torture in your

home country, tell an officer and contact a lawyer immediately. You may have additional rights if you have this fear.

#### **Are there other resources available to me than the ones here?**

**YES! ABSOLUTELY!** Due to Congressional Rules your elected officials are only able to direct you to resources provided by official local, state, and federal government entities. This means that you may find additional, non-government resources, like non-profits and law firms, that may be helpful to your circumstances. You are encouraged to do your own research to find all the available resources available to you.

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DONATE BLOOD

Give Blood. Save a life. Save up to three lives in only one hour every time you give blood. New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCe) is one of the largest community-based, non-profit blood collection and distribution organizations in the United States. They proudly serve as a vital community lifeline dedicated to serving patients and advancing global public health. For more information on donating blood or to schedule an appointment, visit www.nybc.org.

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### ***PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE NEWS***

Make the most of Brooklyn's Backyard this winter! Choose from and attend any (or all) of the fun activities in the park below:

#### **1. Sledding in Prospect Park**

Both through nature and by design, Prospect Park's landscape is dotted with rolling hills, which makes it prime territory for winter sledding on a snowy winter day. When conditions are right, make sure to check out the top sledding destinations in Brooklyn's Backyard. See you on the next snow day!

#### **2. Winter Birdwatching**

Brush off the binoculars! While winter may seem like a quiet time, Brooklyn's Backyard continues to be bustling with feathered friends throughout the park. Make the most of the season with leaf-less trees to spot exciting species that frequent the park in the winter. Learn more about the 250+ bird species that can be spotted in Prospect Park, and join an upcoming Saturday morning Introduction to Birdwatching Walk with the Brooklyn Bird Club.

### **3. Ice Skating at LeFrak Center at Lakeside**

Glide into the new year at Prospect Park's two open-air ice skating rinks! Enjoy a day of open-air skating, take ice bumper cars for a spin, try your hand at hockey and more for cold weather fun.

### **4. Take a Winter Walk**

If summer crowds aren't your scene, the colder months are the perfect time of year to explore Prospect Park's 585 acres of meadow, forest and Brooklyn's only Lake. Take a look at our suggestion for a scenic winter walking route to take advantage of the season.

### **5. Enjoy family fun at the Audubon Center**

Don't miss family friendly nature education activities! Visit the Boathouse for mid-winter recess from February 17-21 to get to know the plants and animals that call Brooklyn's Backyard home through seasonal discovery stations, animal encounters and a winter wilderness walk and more. Plus, don't miss upcoming school holiday hours at the Boathouse.

Visit <https://www.prospectpark.org/enjoy-prospect-park-with-a-winter-checklist/> for more information.



### ***WOODLAND YOUTH CREW APPLICATIONS***

Applications are now open for the Woodland Youth Crew 2025 program! This paid outdoor employment opportunity runs from April to October and is ideal for youth seeking professional experience in green careers. The application deadline is February 21, 2025.

Youth Crew members work on various projects to sustain and restore Prospect Park's 250 acres of woodlands, including trail maintenance, creating new pathways, planting native species, and removing invasive plants. Participants witness their efforts transform the park into a healthier, more resilient ecosystem while understanding their role in preserving Prospect Park's future.

For more information, visit [www.prospectpark.org/wyc](http://www.prospectpark.org/wyc).



### ***FREE SERVICES FOR NIGHTLIFE BUSINESSES***

Are you opening or operating bar, club or restaurant? Start the new year knowing your business is fully compliant with all regulations and ready for any inspections by scheduling a free compliance consultation with our NYC Business Express Service Team (NYC BEST).

NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) offers free legal and commercial lease assistance with legal experts to help you review your lease and negotiate the best contract for your business. For more information on services offered by SBS, visit <https://on.nyc.gov/3Qh83bj>.

Take advantage of these free services. They are here to support you throughout the every stage of your business, from opening to full operation. To schedule an appointment, visit <https://bit.ly/3D2w6HQ>.



### ***DEED THEFT PREVENTION***

The DuBois Bunche Center (DBC) is hosting an Intro to ACRIS: General Deed Theft Prevention Techniques on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00PM via zoom with the Department of Finance. To register for the event, visit <https://bit.ly/4aY5KU2>.

The Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS) allows you to search property records and view document images for Manhattan, Queens,

Bronx, and Brooklyn from 1966 to the present. Join the Dubois Bunche Center for Public Policy at Medgar Evers as we explore tips and techniques to ACRIS that will display information about your property, including current owners, past transactions, and the ability to view digitized copies of related documents like deeds.

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QUIET SKIES

Join Quiet Communities for a community forum on aircraft noise over Brooklyn neighborhoods and what residents can do about it on Thursday, April 3, 2025 from 6-8PM at the Picnic House, Prospect Park (40 West Drive, Brooklyn). Speakers include Quiet Communities, NY Community Aviation Roundtable, NextGen Noise, and Stop the Chop. For more information visit www.quietcommunities.org.

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### **HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINE SURVEY**

Senator Jabari Brisport is pleased to share exciting news for Brooklyn. Phoenix House and MATTERS are partnering to provide our community with a new Harm Reduction Vending Machine, and they want your input on where it should go!

What's A Harm Reduction Vending Machine you ask? This machine will work much like a typical vending machine, but it will provide 24/7 access to FREE, life-saving supplies like fentanyl test strips and Narcan.

Why is this so important? Because over 3,000 New Yorkers died of overdoses in 2023 alone. While your elected officials fight to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable and address the root causes of addiction, our community is still actively in danger. Communities are healthier and safer when everyone has access to both recovery and harm reduction services.

Where will it be installed you want to know? That's where you come in! Phoenix House wants to hear your thoughts on locations in Brooklyn where you think this vending machine would be most accessible and most useful; you can submit any ideas you have here, whether it be a specific spot or a general consideration like "near a subway station."

To effectuate this, Senator Brisport has put together a survey for location suggestions. Please visit <https://bit.ly/41gmtyw>.

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BROOKLYN CLEAR

Brooklyn CLEAR (Collaborative Legal Engagement Assistance Response) redirects low-level drug offenders who receive Desk Appearance Tickets to community-based treatment services as an alternative to incarceration and prosecution. Because they do not know where to seek or find help, many low-level offenders find themselves facing jail time instead of necessary treatment.

Brooklyn CLEAR seeks to provide an alternative as a joint project between EAC Network, Kings County District Attorney's Office, the NYC Police Department, VOCAL-NY, The Legal Aid Society, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and New York City Council. They pair participants an on-call Peer Mentor to engage them in recommended treatment services which can lead to the District Attorney dropping all charges and sealing arrest records upon completion.

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### **NEW LAWS IN EFFECT IN THE NEW YEAR**

Below is a snippet of some of the new laws in effect or soon to be in effect in the city this year. (Note: this is copied from the *Patch*.)

#### **1. No more mandatory broker fees**

The Fairness in Apartment Rentals Act shifts the responsibility of paying the broker — the liaison who shows the apartment and strikes a deal between the renter and the owner — to the person

who hired the broker. This new city law stops tenants from being forced to pay for a broker they didn't hire. Set to take effect in June 2025.

## 2. It's now illegal to sell dinner reservations

In mid-December, Governor Kathy Hochul signed off on legislation that outlaws third-party services that book and sell restaurant reservations to exclusive places, calling the services "predatory" for making consumers pay extra for a table in demand. The law will take effect this month.

## 3. The minimum wage has increased

The city's minimum wage increased to \$16.50 an hour. Now, all tipped service employees must be paid at least \$13.75 per hour with a \$2.75 "tip credit," and all tipped food service workers must be paid at least \$11.00 per hour with a \$5.50 "tip credit" according to the city.

## 4. Pregnant people now get additional time off from work for appointments

On Jan. 1, a new law went into effect that allows privately employed pregnant people to get up to 20 hours of addition paid time off at work to go to prenatal appointments and any other medical care related to pregnancy.

## 5. Ban on co-pays for insulin

Insulin, the prescription drug that helps people manage their diabetes, is entirely covered by insurance statewide for most insurance plans.

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NYC DOT ART

NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) Art Partners (formerly "Arterventions") invites local organizations to exhibit temporary artwork such as murals, sculptures, or interventions on NYC DOT property in collaboration with professional artists. This initiative gives organizations the opportunity to inspire their communities through public art.

Eligible partner organizations in partnership with professional artists are responsible for funding these projects and submitting proposals to display

temporary public artwork on NYC DOT infrastructure for up to 11 months.

[Apply to NYC DOT Art Partners](#) – Deadline: Rolling

Join DOT for a [webinar](#) on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 12pm to learn more about the framework of NYC DOT Art Partners and review the application process.

Please register in advance via Zoom: bit.ly/NYCDOTArtPartnersWebinar.

NYC DOT Art invites all interested artists to submit past work samples for our **Mural Artist Request for Qualifications** for the opportunity to be selected to develop and install temporary murals. Selected artists will create vibrant, site-responsive designs for implementation at a designated project site. Project types may include Asphalt Art Activations, Barrier Beautification, and wall murals.

Mural Artists are being sought as well! Artists must submit their applications by midnight on **Sunday, March 16th** through the NYC DOT Art Submittable portal: nycdotart.submittable.com/submit

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### **BE #FDNY SMART THIS WINTER**

The winter season brings about many changes in your home, including the need to stay warm during the cold weather. The winter and holiday season is also the fire season, with more than one-third of home fires occurring during the months of December, January and February. Most fires and injuries are preventable by taking precautions to keep you and your family safe.

Be #FDNYSmart this winter by following/sharing these safety tips:

#### **Safely Heat Your Home**

- Never use the kitchen oven or gas range to heat your home or apartment. Such

improper use could cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to accumulate, causing severe illness and possible death.

- Have a qualified technician install all new equipment.
- Have a qualified professional inspect your equipment annually. The inspection will ensure that the system is maintained in proper working order and identify any parts that require repair or replacement.
- Schedule regular cleaning of your boiler, furnace and hot water heater, including the chimney and chimney connectors.
- Have your wood-burning stove or fireplace, including the chimney and connectors, inspected every year by a professional.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of fireplace openings to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.

#### **Electric Space Heaters:**

- GIVE SPACE HEATERS SPACE. Heaters should be placed at least three feet from any combustible material, such as bedding and furniture.
- Never use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Inspect the electrical cord for damage before each use.
- Keep young children and pets away from space heaters.
- Only use equipment that has the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Turn off/unplug the space heater whenever you leave the room or go to sleep.

#### **Electric Blankets**

- Use only electric blankets that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- Replace all electric blankets that are more than 10 years old. (99% of blanket fires have been caused by blankets 10 years or older.)
- Purchase blankets with an automatic safety shut off. (The device will shut off the blanket if the temperature gets too high.)

- Always buy new electric blankets; second-hand blankets may not be safe.
- Replace any electric blanket that has broken or frayed cords or scorch marks.
- Avoid tucking the electric blanket in at the sides of the bed.
- Avoid placing other blankets or comforters on top of an electric blanket while in use.
- Warm the bed with your electric blanket and turn it off before going to bed.
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Remember always to have and maintain working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors in your home.

For more winter fire safety tips, translatable in over 80 languages please visit [Seasonal Safety - FDNY Smart](#).

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APPLY FOR COUNCIL FUNDING

Please be advised that all not-for-profit community-based organizations that wish to apply for discretionary funding for FY2026 must submit a Council Application. The FY2026 application is posted on the Council's website and the submission deadline will be on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025.

Visit <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/> for more information and to apply.

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#### ***HOMEOWNER AND TENANT HOUSING RESOURCE FAIR***

Join Senator Zellnor Myrie on Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 11AM to 4 PM at Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch (10 Grand Army Plaza) for a Homeowner and Tenant Housing Resource Fair. From 12:30PM to 2PM in the Business and Career Center Event Room, a Deed Theft Workshop will be conducted. For more information, call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700.

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

Borough President Reynoso's Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Applications are now open! Each year, Borough Presidents are provided with an allotment of capital funding that they can appropriate to eligible projects. These projects can include improvements for academic institutions, affordable housing development, community centers, cultural organizations, economic development, hospitals, libraries, parks, streetscapes, and more.

To learn more and apply, visit www.bit.ly/FY26BKCA by February 20, 2025.

Additionally, every other Monday until May 12, 2025, you can speak to a Brooklyn Borough President Constituent Services representative at the Cortelyou Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. Hours are 10 AM – 5:30 PM, and Brooklyn Public Library Cortelyou Branch is located at 1305 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226.

For more information on any of the Borough President's initiatives, call his office at 718-802-3700.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander will celebrate Black History Month at Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn from 6-8pm on Tuesday, February 25th.

The annual event will honor the contributions and achievements of Black New Yorkers and their role in shaping New York City's past and present. The Comptroller's Office will be joined by civic leaders across the city, community stakeholders, artists, and community members to reflect on timely issues impacting the Black community. Comptroller Lander will pay tribute to remarkable individuals for their significant contributions to New York City, followed by musical performances and networking.

To RSVP, visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/events/black-history-month-celebration/>.

SCHOLARSHIPS

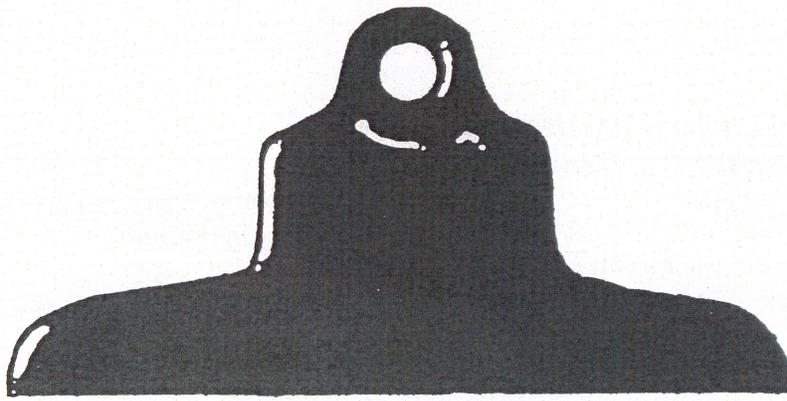
For more than three decades the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) in partnership with CBC Spouses has awarded scholarships to talented and deserving students. Each year, they award more than 300 scholarships to students that demonstrate leadership ability through exemplary community service and academic talent. Their scholarship programs support current or upcoming college students across a variety of disciplines.

Several scholarships are available and for many, the deadline to apply is March 15, 2025. For more information and for a full list, visit <https://www.cbcfinc.org/programs/scholarships/>.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Parents are now able to apply to run for a seat on any of the 32 Community Education Councils (CECs) and 4 Citywide Education Councils for which they are eligible. Campaigning is ongoing through April and voting will take place from late April through May 13. CECs are composed of volunteer parents and community leaders who are responsible under state law for supporting their local district schools with the goal of raising student achievement. This support takes many forms:

- Collaborating with the superintendent in assessing the impact of the district's educational programs and student progress.
- Making recommendations for improvements to school buildings.
- Providing input in the hiring of superintendents and parent coordinators, and submitting a yearly evaluation of the superintendent.



- Approving zones for new schools and rezoning of existing schools when necessary.
- Organizing town halls with the chancellor and holding hearings on the budget and other matters where the DOE is required to collect public feedback.
- Providing input on DOE proposals for school closings and co-locations.
- Through their public meetings, serving as a forum for parents to learn about DOE policies and initiatives and to express their views and concerns.
- Supporting school communities by liaising with School Leadership Teams and helping connect parents with resources through presentations at their monthly meeting.

To learn more and understand how you can run or help with an election, visit <https://bit.ly/42jq1B9>. (link is case sensitive.)

Catholic Charities has two open positions for Case Manager positions at both the St. Louis Senior Center and New Age Senior Center. Case Managers, under the direction of the Program Manager, determines client needs for assistance, arranges for services, provides information and referrals, and assists the Program Manager to plan and coordinate education/recreational activities for the center.

Qualified candidates should have at minimum a Bachelor's degree in human-related services and knowledge of the needs and entitlements of older adults is preferred. To apply for either center, email resume and cover letter to ron.carson@ccbg.org.

The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

The next Crown Heights North Association general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:45PM at Crown Heights Apartments, 1055 St. John's Place, Brooklyn.

ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:
Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson
Michelle George, District Manager/Editor
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
Zoie Moses, College Aide

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