

# ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2014

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## ***DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT***

We would like to congratulate **Eddie Lott, Commanding Officer** of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, on his **well-deserved promotion** from Captain to Deputy Inspector.

If you wish to join the Block Watcher program, you can join in a variety of ways. Contact your local precinct and speak with the Community Affairs Officer. For the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct call 718-735-0634. For the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct, call 718-636-6410

## ***BLOCK WATCHERS***

The New York City Police Department has a community-participation program called the "Block Watcher Program." This program is open to all members of the community and is free of charge.

### ***Why do we need Block Watchers?***

The safety and security of our city depends on citizen involvement. No Police Department can effectively protect life and property without the support and cooperation of the citizens it serves. The Block Watcher Program establishes an informal network for concerned citizens to report emergencies and non-emergencies to the New York Police Department and other agencies.

### ***What is a Block Watcher?***

A Block Watcher is a concerned citizen-- someone who wants to make sure their block and neighborhood is safe. When a Block Watcher sees something -- he or she reports it to the Police Department in a variety of ways.

## ***SUMMER PLAY STREETS***

The Summer 2014 Play Street Application deadline is fast approaching on April 1, 2014. An approved application would allow you to close your street off every day during the week from 9 AM to 5 PM during the months of July and August. There is a lengthy application process and many small details that must be adhered to before your application can be approved. As such, the earlier you submit an application, the earlier you may receive a response and be able to avoid and resolve any potential problems.

Please note that both the Community Board and the local precinct must approve and sign off on your application, just as with a street activity permit. Petitions from block residents are also mandatory.

Complete your summer playstreet application online by visiting <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cdp/play-streets-app.pdf>.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/29/13 through 01/05/14.

	Year-to-Date		
	2014	2013	%Chg
Murder	0	1	****
Rape	1	2	-50
Robbery	19	40	-52.5
Felony Assault	28	23	21.7
Burglary	30	13	130.8
Grand Larceny	31	23	34.8
Gr. Larceny Auto	11	11	0

The overall change year to date is **13.6%**.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date **F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics** through **December 2013**.

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	32	365
Non-Structural	33	201
Total Fires	65	566
Suspicious Fires	1	32
Non-Medical Emergencies	255	2511
Medical Emergencies	276	3209
Total Incidents	611	6519

The **scorecard rating** for the month of December in District 8 was **93.3 for clean streets and 95.1 for clean sidewalks**.

We urge everyone to adhere to **the Dept. of Sanitation's routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and Noon to 1 PM daily**. The front of your property should be swept and free of debris 18 inches into the street. All

sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Remember to sweep!

Also, please obey all Alternate Side Parking regulations on your street so that the sanitation broom can sweep and help keep the District cleaner.

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### **SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES**

As of February 2014, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer offer Social Security number (SSN) printouts and benefit verification information in field offices. However, to ensure a smooth transition, the SSA will continue providing these services if requested until April 2014. These changes are being made to meet the increasing demands for services at the same time that the agency's budget has been significantly cut by over \$1B in each of the last three years. During this same time period the SSA has invested in technology that offers more convenient, cost-effective, and secure options for customers to obtain certain services without visiting a local office.

Because the SSN printout is not an official document with security features, and is easily duplicated, misused, shared illegally, or counterfeited, eliminating it helps prevent fraud. Employers, departments of motor vehicles, and other entities requiring SSN verification can obtain this information in real time or overnight using online government services such as E-Verify and Social Security's Business Services Online. Beneficiaries and recipients needing a benefit verification letter can obtain one **immediately** by registering for a *My Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) or

through the mail within 5-7 days by calling our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

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### **NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS**

The **Citizens Committee for New York City** is offering grants of up to **\$3,000** to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects addressing issues that they identify as important to them. Projects include community gardening, theater and fine arts, nutrition awareness, composting, beautification, tenant organizing, youth education, physical fitness, public safety, and much more.

For further information on the grant program or to obtain an application, visit [www.citizensnyc.org/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants) or email [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org). The deadline to apply is January 27, 2014.

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### **DREAMS YOUTHBUILD**

**Adult Education GED classes** for individuals **21 and older** are being provided at the St. John's Place Family Center located at **1604 St. John's Place** (between Buffalo and Ralph Avenues). Classes are held **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 AM to 12:15 PM**.

If you are interested in registering for classes, please go to 1604 St. John's Place on any day classes are held at 9 AM and bring a valid identification.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Paige Bellenbaum, Director of Community Programs at 212-265-6530 or via email at [pbellenbaum@shfinc.org](mailto:pbellenbaum@shfinc.org).

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDIATION WORKSHOP**

The Brooklyn Parent Center, the Brooklyn Center for Independence for the Disabled, and New York Peace Institute are pleased to present a workshop on **Special Education Mediation**. Parents of students with special needs often face obstacles in educational service delivery and even in getting their children tested, or to avoid pressure to have children tested.

Mediation is a free service. It is a process in which parents of a child with a disability and a school meet with a neutral person (a mediator) to work out their differences. Disputes regarding a student's placement, services, evaluation, classification, or behavior can all be resolved via successful mediation.

Spanish translation will be available at the workshop which will be held on **Thursday, January 16, 2014 from 10 AM to Noon** at **Grand Army Plaza Branch** of Brooklyn Public Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Trustees Room. For more information, call 718-998-3000.

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### **ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE**

New York City's largest public celebration of the great civil rights leader returns to the **BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, co-presented with Borough President Eric Adams and Medgar Evers College** of the City University of New York.

This year's celebration, to be held on **Monday, January 20, 2014 at 10:30 AM**, features a keynote address by author,



professor, and activist Angela Davis, with musical performances by modern jazz artist José James and the BCCC Singers of the Brooklyn Christian Cultural Center. Tickets are free and will be distributed on a first come, first seated basis starting at 8 AM at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House lobby.

For more information, visit <http://www.bam.org/programs/2014/tri-bute-to-mlk>.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Adelaide Miller who will celebrate a birthday in January.

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We wish a speedy recovery to Ms. Kim Albert, Ms. Julia Boyd, and Ms. Patricia Scantlebury. We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Princess Benn-James, who recently lost her father.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7 PM at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct** located at 127 Utica Avenue (between St. Marks and Bergen).

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:30 PM** at the **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct** located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (corner of Bergen Street).

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The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 2014** at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places).

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

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