

# ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 38, NO. 1

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

I would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year! We look forward to continuing to work with you to make Community District 8 a better place to live and work.

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**January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.** Did you know there are more human slaves in the world today than ever before in history?

Human trafficking is believed to be one of the fastest-growing criminal industries in the world. Human trafficking involves the recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining of people for the purpose of various forms of exploitation. Victims are often controlled through force, fraud, or coercion. While it is commonly thought that human trafficking is the smuggling or movement of people, the crime actually involves exploitation and control. Victims of human trafficking can be men or women, adults or children, and U.S. citizens or foreign-born immigrants.

Human trafficking can be difficult to recognize. Human trafficking victims may be forced to work as prostitutes, domestic workers, landscapers, in restaurants and bars, as forced panhandlers, in cleaning and

janitorial jobs, in nail salons, or in other roles.

Human trafficking is a complex and often misunderstood issue requiring a detailed explanation. If you need help, call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733).

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## **INTERNATIONAL MENTORING DAY**

In recognition of the importance of positive role models in the lives of young people, **Governor Andrew Cuomo** has proclaimed **January as Mentoring Month in New York State.** We encourage you to participate in the **International Mentoring Day Initiative.**

**On January 17, 2016** in Honor of Muhammad Ali's 74th Birthday, this initiative will use Muhammad's six core principles as inspiration:

**Confidence** Belief in oneself, one's abilities, and one's future

**Conviction** A firm belief that gives one the courage to stand behind that belief, despite pressure to do otherwise

**Dedication** The act of devoting all of one's energy, effort, and abilities to a certain task

**Giving** To present voluntarily without expecting something in return

**Respect** Esteem for, or a sense of the worth or excellence of oneself and others

**Spirituality** A sense of awe, reverence, and inner peace inspired by a connection to all of creation and/or that which is greater than oneself

For more information, visit  
<http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org>.

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### **FAIR CHANCE ACT: BAN THE BOX**

The Fair Chance Act **makes it illegal for most employers in NYC to ask about your criminal record *before making a job offer***. This means that ads, applications, and interview questions cannot include questions about your criminal record. This also means that an employer cannot require you to consent to a background check before they offer you a job. Basically, your criminal record is OFF LIMITS until you get a job offer. How does this help? People now have a chance to be judged based on their qualifications and based on how the interview goes, rather than their past. The law applies to employers with 4 or more workers.

Employers can still ask about your criminal record, but only after they offer you a job based on your qualifications. *After* an employer makes you a job offer, they can ask about your criminal record and do a background check. BUT, if the employer decides they don't want to hire you after they look at your record, they have to follow certain procedures before they can take your job offer back. Before making a final decision not to hire you, an employer must:

1. Give you a copy of any background check they did.
2. Evaluate you under a law known as Article 23A.
3. Give you a copy of that written evaluation.
4. Hold the job open for at least three business days after the decision is made so that you can respond.

Employers can NEVER ask you about:

- Any arrest where you were never convicted.
- Any convictions that are sealed. Convictions are usually sealed when: 1) You were convicted of a "violation" like disorderly conduct; 2) You completed a court ordered drug treatment program; or 3) You were adjudicated as a youthful offender or a juvenile delinquent.
- Your credit history or credit score (Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act).

Even if an employer finds out about this information, it can't be used against you.

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**Great News!** Legal Hand has trained community volunteers to provide **FREE legal information**, assistance and referrals to help you resolve issues that affect your life, in areas like housing, family, immigration, divorce, domestic violence and benefits and prevent problems from turning into legal actions.

#### **Hours:**

Monday: 12-8pm  
Tuesday/Thursday: 10-5 pm  
Wednesday: 10-8 pm  
Friday: 10-1pm  
Saturday: 11-2pm

Walk in or make an appointment at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213.

For more information, contact Marlies Talay at [talaym@legalhand.org](mailto:talaym@legalhand.org) or call 718-619-4248.

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### ***PROTECT YOUR ELECTRONICS***

Have you registered all of your new gadgets yet? During this holiday season, many of us received new electronic devices as gifts such as cell phones, laptops, tablets and gaming systems, etc. These are popular targets for burglars and robbers.

Help the NYPD get your valuables back to you if they are lost or stolen. **Register your electronic devices with the NYPD Operation ID program.**

Please call the 77th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer at 718-735-0658 or the 78th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer at 718-636-6433.

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### ***SENIOR BENEFIT ASSISTANCE***

**Great News!** Every last Wednesday of the month from 10 AM to 4 PM the **Crown Heights Jewish Community Council (CHJCC)** will be in the Community Board office assisting seniors with completing the following applications:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Medicare Savings Program
- Reduced Fare applications
- Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)
- Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)
- Senior Real Estate Tax Exemption.

Services will be available at the **Community Board 8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues), Brooklyn, NY.** You **MUST** call to schedule an appointment.

This program is only available to seniors living in Crown Heights. To schedule an appointment, call Community Board 8 at 718-467-5574.

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### ***CAPITAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE***

**Borough President Eric L. Adams is accepting Fiscal Year 2017 capital funding applications.** As a key component of the Borough President's Charter-mandated duties, the allocation of discretionary funding is an obligation they take seriously. These funds enhance the work of Brooklyn's organizations by providing essential resources for schools, non-profits and city agencies to benefit Brooklyn – preparing it for the future and enriching our shared spaces.

For further information, please contact the Capital Budget Director Bennett Baruch at 718-802-3890 or email [bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

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### ***NYC COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017***

Is your organization in need of funding? If so, **apply for discretionary funds from your local Council member.** Each year the New York City Council has discretionary funds to allocate to organizations.

**Applications must be submitted from January 4, 2016 through February 22,**

**2016.** Please be advised that no late applications will be accepted.

This application must be completed by an officer or employee of the organization that is applying for discretionary funding. All requests for funding must be legible, well organized, complete and accurate. Keep a copy of the completed application for your records before it is submitted.

For an application visit:  
<http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/application.shtml>.

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### **HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

The **Crown Heights Jewish Community Council (CHJCC)** will help individuals apply and receive **HEAP services**. A HEAP representative will be in their office every Tuesday. **The HEAP program runs through March 15, 2016.** The regular HEAP benefit is based on income, household size, primary heating source, and whether a vulnerable household member is included.

CHJCC is also emphasizing the **HERR Boiler Replacement** program. Do you have a boiler that is not in working condition? A boiler that is no longer repairable? You may be eligible for a **FREE Boiler Replacement!** The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, can help you apply for a **FREE boiler** through the HEAP program! You must be income and asset eligible.

The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council is located at 387 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213. For more information call [718-771-9000, ext 7701](tel:718-771-9000) or visit [www.CHCentral.org/boiler-replacement](http://www.CHCentral.org/boiler-replacement).

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### **NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS**

The **Citizens Committee for New York City is offering grants of up to \$3,000** to neighborhood groups, public school-based groups, and NYCHA tenants associations working to improve the quality of life across the city, including in your community. Neighborhood grants are an important resource for community groups, particularly in low-income areas. Groups that are supported carry out various projects such as community gardening, visual and performing arts programming, composting, tenant organizing, and much more.

**The application deadline is January 26, 2015.** For a grant application and for more information, contact Tehmina at 212-822-9563 or email [tbrohi@citizensnyc.org](mailto:tbrohi@citizensnyc.org).

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### **THE JACKIE ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

We are pleased to inform you that the online application for the **Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship** is now available at [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org).

The JRF application is the vehicle through which more than 3,000 talented young minority high school students apply to become JRF Scholars and carry on the civic-minded legacy of the Foundation's namesake, Jackie Robinson.

**The deadline** to submit the application for a Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship **is February 15, 2016 by 5:00 pm ET.** To learn more about the Jackie Robinson Foundation, please visit their website at [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org).

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## ***BROOKLYN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT***

**Weeksville Heritage Center is currently scheduling oral histories for the months of January and February!**

They are interested in your stories of growing up in Brooklyn, current and long-gone Brooklyn institutions, important people and places and your experience of change in Brooklyn. What did Brooklyn feel like growing up? How has the urban landscape changed over time?

They also have special oral history projects focused on the Black immigrant experience in Brooklyn and the Crown Heights Riots.

If you are interested in collecting the oral histories of your neighbors and family members or would like to learn more information about this project, please contact Amaka Okechukwu at [amaka@weeksvillesociety.org](mailto:amaka@weeksvillesociety.org) or 718-756-5250 ext. 305 or visit: <http://www.weeksvillesociety.org/crown-heights-riots/>.

## ***30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BROOKLYN TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.***

Join the **Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and Medgar Evers College** of The City University of New York for New York City's largest public celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **January 18, 2016 at 10:30 am.**

This year's tribute features a host of events celebrating Dr. King's vision:

Michael Eric Dyson will be the Keynote Speaker, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams will be Master of Ceremonies and there will be Musical Performances by

Kimberly Nichole and the Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir.

Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first seated basis starting at 8am. This is a FREE event. For more information call, 718-636-4100 or BAM Patron Services at 718-636-4182.

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## ***RED TAPE COMMISSION SURVEY***

**Comptroller Scott Stringer's Red Tape Commission** is made up of small business leaders, regulatory experts and advocates from around the City who are dedicated to finding ways to help business owners cut through the red tape.

For too long, government has been an obstacle rather than a partner in the success of small businesses. A complex maze of regulations and red tape have stifled innovation, slowed business growth, and discouraged potential entrepreneurs from opening their doors in our city.

The duty of the Commission is simple: to listen to business owners and entrepreneurs directly, across all five boroughs, with the purpose of completing an independent, bottom-up review of regulations that affect business formation and growth across the five boroughs.

The Red Tape Commission survey is designed to generate information about the experience of small business owners in New York City.

The survey is completely confidential and you are under no obligation to participate. No personally-identifiable information will be collected or published.

The results of the survey may be used to inform discussions that the Commission will engage in throughout the five

boroughs, as well as provide statistical background for a report about ways to streamline the regulatory system for entrepreneurs.

To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RN3D35T>.

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### **HOMEBASE REACH OUT BEFORE YOU'RE FORCED OUT OF YOUR HOME**

With the creation of the Homebase program, the Department of Homeless Services dramatically changed the landscape of homeless services in New York City. Prior to this time, many low-income New Yorkers found the shelter system to be the only means for coping with a housing crisis. But now, households on the brink of homelessness are faced with an entirely new reality, complete with an extensive network of neighborhood-based services to help them remain in their communities and avoid entering the shelter system.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a housing crisis, Homebase can help with:

- Services to prevent eviction
- Assistance obtaining public benefits
- Emergency rental assistance
- Education and job placement assistance
- Financial counseling and money management
- Help relocating
- Short-term financial assistance

Homebase remains the cornerstone of the City's homelessness prevention efforts, crafting individualized assistance to meet the needs of each household. They recently opened more locations in community districts throughout the five boroughs.

The two (2) nearest sites that service Community Board 8 are CAMBA 1 located at 1117 Eastern Parkway (718-622-7323) and 1958 Fulton Street (718-408-5756 ext. 37100).

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### **BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART FREE ON THURSDAYS!!!!**

The **Brooklyn Museum of Art** will be free to the public every **Thursday night** from 6 to 10 p.m. starting **January 21, 2016** with a salsa party. Highlights include lessons, dancing, and performances.

Also, celebrate Black History Month with artists and performers who engage with the past to create a new narrative for the future.

The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway corner Washington Avenue. For more information, visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org).

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### **STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS**

**US Congressman Hakeem Jeffries** invites you to his **State of the District address** to be held on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** at Long Island University (Paramount Theater) in Brooklyn.

During the speech, he will discuss the progress he has made in the community over the last year and outline issues related to jobs, the police-community relationship, and affordable housing.

The event will also feature musical and artistic performances from local residents. A reception will be held upon conclusion of the speech.

For more information, contact the Congressman's office at 718-237-2211.

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**HOPE 2016**  
**ONE NIGHT TO MAKE IT COUNT**

On Monday, **January 25, 2016**, starting at 10:30 p.m., the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) **NEEDS YOU to help conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE)**. DHS needs thousands of volunteers to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to count the number of people living unsheltered in the city. Just one night of your time will assist with the collection of vital information that is used by outreach teams to help homeless people leave the streets for a better life.

The information gathered by volunteers during HOPE 2016 is critical to the City's ongoing efforts, but they need our help to make it possible. DHS needs more than 3,000 volunteers, who are 18 years-old or older, to give just one night of their time to help count the number of New Yorkers living on city streets. They will provide you with all the training you will need to conduct the survey on the night of HOPE plus a quick, convenient online orientation when you register to give you the basics.

Hope 2016 will take place from 10:30 pm – 4:00 am the following day. This is a late night event. If you register for the MTA training site, you will need to arrive at the training site by 9pm. Sign up to volunteer for HOPE 2016 today!

For more information or to register to volunteer go to <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/> or call 311.

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**PARKS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Parks Without Borders is a new design approach focused on creating more open, welcoming, and beautiful public spaces where parks and neighborhoods meet. The goal is to make parks more accessible and welcoming to everyone; improve neighborhoods by extending the beauty of parks out into communities; and create vibrant community spaces by transforming underused areas.

Public spaces bind us together as New Yorkers because we all walk the same streets and use the same parks. When they are well designed, they are accessible to everyone and can help make neighborhoods more pleasant and park areas safer.

The Parks Department wants to hear from you! To nominate a park for a new Parks Without Borders project, visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/PWB](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/PWB) before **February 28, 2016!**

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**AABE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**The American Association of Blacks in Energy** is a professional organization of African Americans in the energy industry. **Through its Scholarship Program, AABE seeks to help increase the number of African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans (under-represented minorities) in energy related fields.** By doing so, they help the nation address a critical need and a challenge to our future economic vitality in the world market.

Candidates for an AABE scholarship must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have an overall "B" un-weighted academic average (3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale) or higher.

- Be a graduating high school senior who has applied to one or more accredited colleges/universities.
- Plan to major in business, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematic fields in preparation for a career in the energy sector.
- Be a member of one of a class or group of individuals who has been historically under-represented in the sciences, technology, engineering and math related disciplines.

Consideration will be given only to candidates submitting complete application packages which include: (1) a completed AABE application form (copies are acceptable); (2) an official high school transcript; (3) official proof of ACT or SAT scores; (4) two letters of reference; and (5) a completed checklist. Please remove Social Security Numbers from any documents.

Completed application packages should be scanned and emailed by **March 4, 2016** to [aabenycscholarshipapp@gmail.com](mailto:aabenycscholarshipapp@gmail.com).

**Applications can be obtained by calling Community Board No. 8 at 718-467-5574.**

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### **3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH JOB FAIR AND CAREER EXPO**

Assemblyman Walter Mosley is pleased to present his **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Job Fair and Career Expo** on **Friday, January 29, 2016 from 10 AM to 4 PM**. The event will be held at the Shirley Chisholm State Office Building at 55 Hanson Place, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY. You must have identification to enter the building.

The Youth Job Fair and Career Expo is for youth ages 15 through 24. Employment opportunities, resume writing workshops,

interviewing skills seminars, financial literacy training, internships and apprenticeships information will all be available.

For more information regarding this event or any other community issue, please contact Assemblyman Mosley's District office at 718-596-0100.

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### **RESOLVE YOUR MORTGAGE ISSUES**

**Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association** invites you to attend a **Mortgage Forum** on **Friday, January 22, 2016 at Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn, from 9 AM to 3PM**.

For more information or to RSVP call Bukky at 718-773-4116.

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### **HOUSING FORUM**

You are invited to attend a **Housing Forum** on **Saturday, February 6, 2016** from 1-4 p.m. at PS 9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Representatives from Fifth Avenue Committee, IMPACCT Brooklyn, and MHANY have been invited to discuss tenant harassment and anti-displacement services, preparing for affordable housing lotteries, and affordable apartments being built in the community.

The event is being organized and/or sponsored by the PS9 PTO, State Senator Jesse Hamilton, Assemblyman Mosley, Council Member Cumbo, and the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council.

For more information, please contact the PTA at PS 9 at 718-638-3260.



## ***GOLDEN COUPLES***

Join **Borough President Eric L. Adams** as he toasts "Golden Couples," who have been together 50 years or longer on **Valentine's Day at Borough Hall**. To nominate a couple or to sign up, visit <http://brooklyn-usa.org/golden-couples/> or call 718-802-3700.

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## ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

### Exam Monitors Needed!

New York City's Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Bureau of Exams is currently seeking residents of New York City who are interested in serving as Exam monitors during the administration of large Civil Service Exams on the weekends in NY City high schools and at DCAS test sites.

The pay rates are currently up to \$9.75 per hour, and the administration of tests may be from 6 to 18 hrs per day. These are room proctoring positions.

Positions are open to people ages 17 and up. Registration periods are at 1 & 2:30PM Tuesdays at 1 Centre Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1448, New York City, NY please bring your original Social Security Card, valid photo ID and a pen.

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### Federal Correctional Officer

The US Bureau of Prisons is looking for Correctional Officers to work in prisons in New York State and around the country. The application deadline is March 16, 2016. There is no application fee.

The range for starting salary is \$39,400 to \$52,230 per year plus benefits and paid

vacation. Hiring is not based on a standard civil-service test. You will be evaluated and rated based on your responses to assessment questions during the application process.

The online job announcement at <https://goo.gl/sdwSvZ> has a link that allows you to preview the questions.

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### Medical Assistance Specialist in Health Agencies

The state is looking for Medical Assistance Specialists to handle administrative tasks related to the Medicaid program in the Dept. of Health in Albany and New York City, and the State Veterans Home at Oxford. The application **deadline is January 20, 2016** and the application fee is \$35.

The starting salary is \$52,293. Appointees who work in New York City or in surrounding counties will receive an additional \$3,026 annual downstate adjustment.

For more information or to apply online, visit <https://goo.gl/eUn1h5>.

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**The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through December 2015.**

|                                | <b>Month</b> | <b>YTD</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 28           | 342        |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 8            | 260        |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 36           | 602        |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 1            | 19         |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 227          | 3149       |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 249          | 3699       |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 522          | 7708       |



The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/28/15 through 1/03/16.

Year-to-Date

|                         | 2015 | 2014 | %Chg |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Murder</b>           | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| <b>Rape</b>             | 0    | 1    | -100 |
| <b>Robbery</b>          | 2    | 5    | -60  |
| <b>Felony Assault</b>   | 3    | 2    | 50   |
| <b>Burglary</b>         | 2    | 2    | 0    |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>    | 6    | 4    | 50   |
| <b>Gr. Larceny Auto</b> | 2    | 1    | 100  |

The overall change year to date is **0%**.

The **scorecard rating** for the month of December in District 8 was **83.5 for streets and 84.5 for sidewalks.**

Remember to sweep in front of your property and also 18 inches into the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Adelaide Miller, CB 8 member.

We send our heartfelt condolences to former Assemblymember Clarence Norman, Jr., who recently lost his mother Ella Norman. Condolences can be sent to First Baptist Church of God in Christ, 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225.

The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7:30 PM** at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (corner of Bergen Street), Brooklyn.

The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7 PM** at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **February 11, 2016** at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue) at 7 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

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

**Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Melanie Grant, Community Assistant**  
**Julia Neale, Community Associate**

**Community Board No. 8**


**1291 St. Marks Avenue,**

**Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213**

**718-467-5574 or 467-5620**

**Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)**

**Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)**

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