

ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2020

*A New Year Message from the Chairperson,
Ethel Tyus, Esq.*

The beginning of 2020 affords us an opportunity to reflect on our works and appreciate our loved ones. It gives me pleasure to serve you as your Chairperson and even more pleasure to say Happy New Year to you and yours.

Looking back at the past year, I am reminded of our ultimate purposes as Board members. We serve together to uplift the community. We must be protectors and servants of the community's best and shared interests.

I encourage all of you as Community Board members to strive for perfect attendance and full participation in every endeavor of the Community Board. The residents of this District depend on us to advocate for their needs. We must continue to work together to improve the quality of life in our District.

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*A Message from Michelle George,  
District Manager*

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.

**VOLUME 42, NO. 1**

Here are some of our accomplishments for 2019:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) resurfaced the following streets:

- St. John's Place from Bedford to Ralph Avenues
- Utica Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway
- Hampton Place between Park and St. John's Places
- Flatbush Avenue from Atlantic to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues
- Buffalo Avenue from Bergen Street to Eastern Parkway
- Lincoln Place from Schenectady Avenue to Eastern Parkway

Additionally, DOT approved the installation of a left-turn signal at Eastern Parkway northbound to New York Avenue and installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Sterling Place and Kingston Avenue.

The Parks Department celebrated the following accomplishments:

- St. John's Recreation Center re-opened at the start of summer with a new HVAC unit, new boilers, and new cooling system.
- Stroud Playground was renovated and re-opened in May.

- Over 200 trees were pruned on various streets, in parks and playgrounds in District 8.

In 2019 the MTA NYC Transit began an accelerated ADA Accessibility and Elevator project at the 2/3 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn Museum subway station, and the project is scheduled to be completed this year.

Renovations and ADA Accessibility at the LIRR Nostrand Avenue Station will be completed by the end of this month.

The New York City Council approved and completed the street co-naming of the northwest corner of Pacific Street and Utica Avenue in honor of Reverend Timothy Wright.

The District office processed over 70 street activity permits last summer and fall.

The District office processed and helped resolve several hundred municipal complaints in the District.

Weeksville Heritage Center, a cultural gem in District 8, was designated as a Cultural Institutions Group by the New York City Council. Weeksville now joins three dozen other groups with such designations, all of whom receive grants to meet basic operating needs throughout the year.

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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 the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733).

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**January is National Blood Donor Month.** Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular is a difficult month for blood centers to collect blood donations. A reduction in turnout can put our nation's blood inventory at a critical low level.

If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and meet other donor requirements, you may be eligible to donate blood.

Representatives from the nation's blood banking community are challenging all eligible Americans who have yet to donate blood for the first time to make a New Year's resolution to give the "gift of life". Donate Blood!

The Brooklyn Donor Center is currently closed due to building renovations, but to find a center nearest you, please visit <https://nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>.

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January is also Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that have

common features including eye pressure too high for the health of the eye, damage to the optic nerve, and permanent loss of sight. The eye's drainage areas may become clogged or blocked so that too much fluid stays in the eye, which increases eye pressure. Too much pressure in the eye can damage the optic nerve, and if it is damaged, it becomes unable to send images to the brain, leading to blindness.

Everyone is at risk as glaucoma occurs in people of all ages and races. The most important risk factors include age, family history of glaucoma, African ancestry, and diabetes mellitus. Unfortunately, there are usually no symptoms to alert you that you have glaucoma. However, regular annual eye exams to check eye pressure can assist you with early diagnoses. Your eye doctor can perform exams to look at the optic nerve to see if there are signs of damage from glaucoma.

Treatment varies from person to person. Your doctor may prescribe eye drops or pills. Sometimes surgery is needed. There is no cure for glaucoma, but lifelong treatment usually controls glaucoma.

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### ***HELP STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING***

NYC Dept. of Sanitation issues rewards to individuals that assist them in combating illegal dumping. It is unlawful for any person, their agent, employee or any person under his or her control to dispose of any material via personal vehicle on any street, lot, park, public place or other area whether publicly or privately owned. In instances where such dumping occurs, both owner and driver of the vehicle are liable for the dumping. Fines for the owner of the vehicle range from \$1,500 to \$20,000. In instances where the owner and the operator are different, the maximum fine can go up to \$40,000. In citizen complaint cases, a summons is generally issued to the registered owner of the reported vehicle.

To incentivize reports of illegal dumping, The Dept. of Sanitation offers a rewards program for individuals that report illegal dumping and the perpetrator is convicted and pays a fine, at the discretion of the Sanitation Commissioner, 50% of the amount collected shall be offered as a reward to said individual.

To earn your reward, follow the following steps:

- Observe the vehicle: DO NOT MAKE YOUR PRESENCE KNOWN; REPORT THE VEHICLES, NOT THE INDIVIDUALS;
- Record vital information (license plate number, vehicle description, type of material removed, time, date and location of the occurrence);
- File a citizen complaint form with the Sanitation Police;
- Peace Officers, employees of the Department of Sanitation or OATH, employees of any company under contract with the Department of Sanitation, or employees of any government entity that, in conjunction with the Department of Sanitation, conducts enforcement activity relating to illegal dumping, are not eligible for reward.

You may get Citizen Complaint Forms by calling the NYC Citizen's Service Center at 311 or by visiting the Department of Sanitation's website at: <http://www.nyc.gov/dsny>.

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NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Neighborhood Grants of up to \$3,000: Citizens Committee for New York City is now accepting applications from volunteer-led groups for our Neighborhood Grants program, which provides up to \$3,000 for community improvement

projects. Applications are due January 20, 2020 and can be found at <https://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/neighborhood-grants>.

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***Municipal Services Update***

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/23/19 through 12/29/19.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2019         | 2018 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 14           | 2    | 600   |
| Rape           | 21           | 31   | -32.3 |
| Robbery        | 193          | 180  | 7.2   |
| Felony Assault | 253          | 301  | -15.9 |
| Burglary       | 127          | 158  | -19.6 |
| Grand Larceny  | 339          | 400  | -15.2 |
| GL Auto        | 70           | 72   | -2.8  |

The overall change year-to-date is **-11.1%**.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through December 2019.

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	35	315
Non-Structural	36	161
Total Fires	71	476
Suspicious Fires	3	18
Non-Medical Emergencies	279	3014
Medical Emergencies	307	4015
Total Incidents	668	7718

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The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the “scorecard” rating, was **92.2% for clean streets and 89.2% for sidewalks** for the month of December.

We continue to 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 the District clean.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE’S STATE OF THE PEOPLE ADDRESS

Public Advocate of New York City, Jumaane Williams, invites you to his swearing in ceremony and State of the City Address on **Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from Noon to 3 PM** at Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall, 2900 Bedford Avenue. The event will include breakout sessions on key issues. For inquiries, contact RSVP@advocate.nyc.gov.

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***RENEW YOUR ID NYC CARD ONLINE***

IDNYC is celebrating its fifth birthday, and that means some cardholders will be ready for renewal. Does your IDNYC expire in less than 60 days? If so, you can Renew Your IDNYC online! If you do not already have an IDNYC, you should consider signing up for one, as NYC's municipal ID gives you FREE membership at dozens of cultural organizations.

To learn more about ID NYC or to renew your card, visit <https://a069-idnyconlineportal.nyc.gov/IOPWeb/#/EN/Dashboard>.

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HOPE COUNT 2020

Through #OutreachNYC, thousands of New York City’s residents are aiding Dept. of Homeless Service outreach teams’ everyday efforts to meet

and engage more New Yorkers in need across the five boroughs. **DHS needs your help with another vital part of their mission.**

On Monday, January 27, 2020, DHS will conduct its Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE), an annual point-in-time survey of New Yorkers sleeping unsheltered on the streets that is required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The HOPE Survey provides valuable information that helps ensure HOME-STAT outreach teams are providing resources to this vulnerable population in their ongoing year-round outreach efforts.

DHS is asking for residents' help to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people who are sleeping on the street on one of the coldest nights of the year. Volunteers are needed from approximately 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. on the night of the 27th. Just one night of your time will help DHS collect critical information to help people move from the streets and into a safe, stable environment.

Please visit [nyc.gov/hope](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/census/whats-a-nocc/whats-a-nocc.page) to learn more and to register. Your help is essential to help New York City address the problem of homelessness that has built up over many years.

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### ***JOIN YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING CENSUS COMMITTEE***

Want to get involved in the 2020 Census right in your own community? Volunteer to become a member of your local **Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee (NOCC)**. Your Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee is a group of volunteers based in a specific neighborhood working to ensure everyone in the community is counted! As a volunteer, you will help NYC Census 2020 with direct local outreach to raise awareness and community organizing to ensure that everybody in your neighborhood gets counted.

NOCCs will help provide an organizational structure for local volunteers to do their own direct outreach to their friends, families, and neighbors, with support from NYC Census 2020. Because all the NOCCs and their volunteers will be rooted in the communities, they will have organic connections to the culture, needs, and resources of the neighborhood. This grassroots effort allows for trust building to better help people understand why the census is so important not just for New York City, but for the local community.

Volunteers will organize teach-ins, phone-banks, and text-banks to get out the count. Each volunteer will choose which team they want to work with and how much responsibility they wish to take on. To find out the next information session or to sign up, visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/census/whats-a-nocc/whats-a-nocc.page>.

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HELPFUL SERVICES FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANA RICHARDSON

Assemblywoman **Diana Richardson** in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn (NHS) is offering Tenant Support on **Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 2 PM**. NHS offers the following resources: landlord and tenant resources; anti-eviction assistance; senior housing; rent arrears and rent subsidies referrals; affordable housing; housing lottery education; and much more.

NHS Brooklyn offers a comprehensive array of services for homeowners, homebuyers, and tenants, including first-time homebuyer education, financial coaching, home repair assistance, home insurance counseling, landlord training, foreclosure intervention, and tenant support services. Most of these services are free to the public.

Labor Services are also being offered at the Assemblywoman's office on **Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Unemployment concerns, training,

job seekers, and compliance appointments can be scheduled. Appointments are necessary.

Assemblywoman Richardson is also pleased to offer a Health Insurance Navigator Program on Mondays from 11 AM to 5 PM. Navigator Programs help to simplify the complicated world of selecting the health insurance plan that is right for you and your family. Individuals can qualify for insurance during this special enrollment period due to loss of health insurance (for reasons other than non-payment of premium), divorce or legal separation, birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child in foster care, and marriage or domestic partnership. Small businesses can apply at any time.

For more information on the Navigator Program or to schedule an appointment, call 718-875-9300.

All services are held at Assemblywoman Richardson's office located at 330 Empire Blvd, 1st Floor, Brooklyn. Please call 718-771-3105 to schedule an appointment for free legal or tenant services, or to get additional information.

Also, please consider attending Assemblywoman Richardson's **Civic Minded meetings**. The next one will be held on **Saturday, January 25, 2020** from 2-4 PM at 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn.

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***EVENTS AND SERVICES WITH  
SENATOR ZELNOR MYRIE***

**Senator Zellnor Myrie** is pleased to announce his partnership with upcoming events and services of importance to the community.

Senator Myrie's office is collecting nonperishable food for AHRC NYC's MLK Food Drive through January 15, 2020! Drop off your canned and boxed food donations at their District Office located at 1077 Nostrand Avenue, Ground Floor, Brooklyn. Donations should not be expired, dented or rusted. There will also be a MLK Jr. Day of Service to combat hunger on Monday, January

20, 2020 from 10AM-2PM at PS 241 located at 976 President Street, Brooklyn. RSVP to [MLKday@ahrcnyc.org](mailto:MLKday@ahrcnyc.org) or call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700 for more information.

BuildingWorks is recruiting for the pre-apprenticeship program with the NYC District Council of Carpenters. This is a six-week voluntary training program in Lower Manhattan that covers job readiness and worker safety. Graduates can be recommended to begin a four-year union apprenticeship. **Applications are accepted until January 22, 2020.** Request an application by emailing [BuildingWorks395@gmail.com](mailto:BuildingWorks395@gmail.com). For more information visit <https://nyccarpenterstrainingcenter.org/buildingworks/about-buildingworks/#>.

Grow Brooklyn's low-income prep assistance will begin on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 and continue every Tuesday from 1 - 9PM at the Senator's District Office. Representatives will help you prepare your taxes. Call 718-284-4700 for more information.

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IMPACCT BROOKLYN

Do you or someone you know need help with a landlord issue? Stop by IMPACCT Brooklyn at 1124 Fulton Street and talk to their staff!
Mondays, January 13th and 27th from Noon - 5 PM

Wednesdays, January 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 10 AM - 3 PM

Need legal advice? Come to their **Legal Clinic on Thursday, January 16, 2020** from 6-8 PM. You must make an appointment and arrive on time. Services are offered at 1124 Fulton Street from 6 to 8 PM. No entry after 6:45 PM.

Bring any documents you have that would help them understand your situation. This can include letters, notices, rent invoices, a log of phone calls,

photos, etc. Call 347-482-0565 or email [Gina Aracena@impacctbk.org](mailto:Gina.Aracena@impacctbk.org) to schedule an appointment or if you have any questions.

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**LEGAL HAND**

**Legal Hand Crown Heights** has numerous upcoming events that may be of interest to the public.

**Budgeting and Money Management Workshop  
Monday, January 13th at 5:30 PM**

Come learn about how to make a budget, handle debt, and other ways to manage your money at this free workshop. All are welcome and a free dinner will be provided. To RSVP or receive more information, please call 718-619-4248.

**Immigration 101  
Monday, January 27th at 6 PM**

Come learn about the US immigration system! Topics covered will include naturalization, family petitions, and humanitarian paths to citizenship. All are welcome and a free dinner will be provided. To RSVP or receive more information, please call 718-619-4248.

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**EVENTS HONORING
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

On **Monday, January 20, 2020**, come share the dream at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Peter Jay Sharp Building, located at 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 10:30 AM. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first seated basis, and doors open at 8 AM.

Also on **Monday the 20th**, Emmanuel Baptist Church located at 279 Lafayette Avenue, will celebrate and continue the MLK legacy through service projects. For more information, please contact (718) 622-1107 ext. 133 or email tcanady@ebc-ny.org.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES WORKSHOP

IMPACCT Brooklyn is hosting a free Financial Capabilities Workshop on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at 1000 Dean Street, suite 420, Brooklyn. Poor credit or bad financial planning is a roadblock for many people. IMPACCT's experts can help you correct and maintain good credit so you can secure the housing or financial freedom you deserve. It is important to ensure that credit scores meet the standard qualifications for approval, and our workshop can be the first step in that direction. For more information, visit <https://impacctbrooklyn.org/>.

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**Scholarship and Training Opportunities**

The **Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program** at the University of Washington is designed for students who want to pursue their passion for nature conservation and environmental justice. Applicants should be first year or sophomores at four-year colleges (two-year college students will be considered if there is demonstration of transfer in Fall 2020). For more information or to apply by February 5, 2020, visit <http://uwconservationscholars.org/program/apply/>.

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Running Start's High School Program is looking for high schoolers to spend a week in DC to learn about political leadership! Priority deadline for applications is January 15, 2020. Apply at <https://runningstart.org/running-start-application/>

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The **Albert C. Wiltshire Employment Center** recruits qualified candidates for positions with the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a 3000-acre industrial park. Applicants are encouraged to send an email indicating their interests with their resume if applicable to [recruit@bnydc.org](mailto:recruit@bnydc.org) with the position



of interest in the subject line. Current opportunities include CNC Operator (drilling, grinding, milling), Fabricator, Estimator (costs), Plumber, Project Manager, Development and Communications Coordinator, IT Dispatcher and Operations Coordinator, Driver, Carpenter, and Jewelry Maintenance/Repairs/and Operations.

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Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams hosts **OSHA Training Worskhops every Tuesday and Thursday from now through February 27, 2020** from 6-9 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. RSVP to www.Brooklyn-usa.org/getcertified.

Get your Associate's Degree for free at the Library with Bard's new MicroCollege! Bard College and the Brooklyn Public Library are launching a college degree program that will bring high-quality liberal arts education to Brooklynites who have previously been excluded or deterred from higher education. There is no cost to students. For more info or to apply, visit <https://microcollege.bard.edu/>.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:30 PM** at Basil Pizzeria and Wine Bar located at 272 Kingston Avenue.

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The next **78th Precinct Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020** at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn at 7:30 PM.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Community Board member **Mr. Phu Duong**, who will celebrate a birthday in the month of January.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7 PM** at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street), Brooklyn.

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

**Ethel Tyus, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
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