

ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2024

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A Note from CB8 Chairperson:

Happy New Year CB8!

Thank you to our CB8 staff, board members, community and our partners for your continued commitment, hard work and heart of service to this district.

In this climate, where our nation is experiencing discord and turmoil, let us be of good courage and exemplify the tenets of community with fellowship, the sharing of values and goals as we continue to achieve great things in our district. Agreement is a place of power.

Wishing you and yours an abundantly peaceful, healthy and fulfilling 2024!

Blessings,
Irsa Weatherspoon

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***JOIN COMMUNITY BOARD 8!***

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso has begun accepting community board membership applications. The application period will run through February 19, 2024, and prospective members are encouraged to apply early and attend meetings to familiarize yourself with community boards. Current members up for renewal are encouraged to submit their reappointment application early as well. To apply, go to <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/community-boards/>.

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT!**



**Mr. Robert Witherwax**

was appointed to the Board in 2004 and currently serves as the Chairperson of the Environment, Sanitation, and Transportation Committee (EST) and as Vice Chair of the SLAC Committee.

Mr. Witherwax states: "I joined the community board in 2004 because Councilmember Tish James suggested I look into applying as I worked on the first Eastern Parkway median renovation plan. My goals for membership and participation were to learn about the process of how this great city works, and how community boards play a role in that. Almost 20 years later, I'm still learning. Currently, my goals as a member are to demystify and communicate to new generations of CB8 members and residents how community participation can have a positive impact on the community, especially for someone that was not born into the community and moved here by choice."

During his tenure on the Board, Mr. Witherwax has served as Vice Chairperson of several committees and as Chair of CB8 By-Laws revision committee several times. He states that he is proudest of the ways he has been able to help streamline several committee's processes, and that he will continue to serve when and where needed.

**District Manager's Report**

**Municipal Services Update**

The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the "scorecard" rating, was 86% for clean streets and 94.2% 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 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 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.



**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 01/01/2024 through 01/07/2024.**

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2024         | 2023 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 0            | 0    | ***   |
| Rape           | 0            | 1    | -100  |
| Robbery        | 3            | 4    | -25   |
| Felony Assault | 5            | 10   | -50   |
| Burglary       | 1            | 3    | -66.7 |
| Grand Larceny  | 6            | 11   | -45.5 |
| GL Auto        | 1            | 7    | -85.7 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-55.56**.



**HELP IDENTIFY SMOKE SHOPS**

To date, there have not been any cannabis licenses issued in Community Board 8 for retail sale of THC containing cannabis products. As such, if you see any shops or storefronts, mobile vans, and the like advertising THC containing cannabis or "weed," they are operating illegally, and we need your help in identifying the unlicensed smoke shops in District 8. If there is a smoke shop near

you, please email the name, address, and hours you witnessed activity of the shop, and any other details to [BrooklynCB8@gmail.com](mailto:BrooklynCB8@gmail.com).



**FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR OLDER ADULTS**

Councilmember Crystal Hudson has teamed up with Self Help to provide free transportation to medical appointments for older adults. To reserve a car, please call (718) 559-4352. Rides are available Monday to Friday between 9:00am-12:00pm. Requests must be made at least one day in advance of the trip. Eligible participants include older adults who reside in City Council District 35 (Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights, and Prospect Heights). Travel is restricted to the five boroughs and western Nassau County.



**HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

HEAP Benefit Applications are Open! HEAP can help eligible New Yorkers heat their homes. You may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older, or permanently disabled. To learn more and apply, visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>.



**HOPE COUNT 2024**

Every year NYC's DSS, HRA, DHS conducts the annual Homelessness Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) Survey. This year the count will take place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 (overnight).

HOPE is a point-in-time survey undertaken each winter that helps the City estimate the number of unsheltered New Yorkers living on the street. The results gathered through this survey provide the City with valuable information that helps determine how to allocate resources to best serve New Yorkers in need.

On the night of HOPE, volunteers help out by canvassing streets, parks, subways, and other public spaces. Volunteers are needed from approximately 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. on the night of January 23rd. Just a few hours of your time will help with the ongoing efforts to support New Yorkers experiencing unsheltered homelessness and encourage them to take that first important step to come off the streets and subways and accept the vital services and supports they need and deserve.

A lot of volunteers have already signed up, but more are still needed to help to ensure that HOPE 2024 is a success, and there's still time to sign up! If you're interested in participating, please go to [www.nyc.gov.hope](http://www.nyc.gov.hope) to learn more and to register. Registration will be open through the day of the 23rd, but you are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible!

Your participation is essential to helping us address the challenge of homelessness and support some of our City's most vulnerable residents as they get back on their feet.



***38th ANNUAL BROOKLYN TRIBUTE TO MLK***

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presented by BAM and Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso at BAM Peter Jay Sharp building 30 Lafayette Street on Monday, January 15, 2024. The main ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

Keynote speaker: Reginald Dwayne Betts, Poet, Lawyer and Founder and CEO of the Freedom Reads, an organization that opens libraries in

prisons, transforming cellblocks into Freedom Libraries. Master of Ceremonies, Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President with musical performances by Madison McFerrin and Sing Harlem.

To **RSVP**, please email [PatronServices@BAM.org](mailto:PatronServices@BAM.org)



***STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS***

Mayor Eric Adams invites you to the 2024 State of the City Address on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Hostos Community College CUNY Center for the Arts & Culture Main Theater 450 Grand Concourse (off 149<sup>th</sup> Street) Bronx, N.Y. 10451. RSVP is required. Space is limited. RSVP by Wednesday, January 17.

For questions or to request an ADA accommodation, please email [invite@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:invite@cityhall.nyc.gov). The event will be livestreamed on [www.nyv.gov](http://www.nyv.gov).

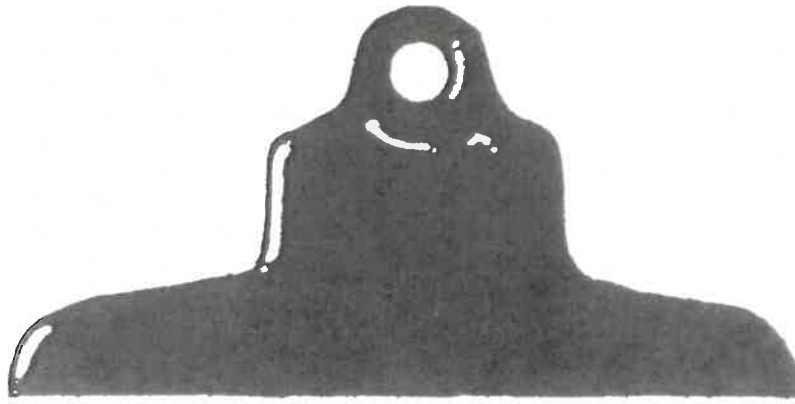


***DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS***

As we begin 2024, please be aware of the number of scams that residents will face. The only way to protect yourself is to arm yourself with knowledge to prevent becoming a victim.

Con Edison would like all residents to know that Real Con Edison employees wear a photo ID, will give you their supervisor's name and ask you to call 1-800-75-CONED to verify their identity.

Scammers can make it look like Con Edison is calling you on your Caller ID. If you ever receive a call asking for payment or other personal information related to your account, hang up and call us: 1-800-75-CON ED. The company would never demand payment via a pre-paid debit card, gift card, bitcoin, Cash App or any digital wallet app like Zelle or Venmo.



We send our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Mark Thurton, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee on the loss of his sister.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Honorable Congressman Hakeem Jefferies on the loss of his father.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. John Flataeu.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Geoffrey Davis on the loss of his mother.



We wish a speedy to Ms. Princess Benn-James, Vice Chair Veterans Committee.



**The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:30 PM via zoom. For more information, please call Community Affairs at 718-636-6410.



The next **Community Board 8** general meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2024** at the Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) at 6:30 PM.



**The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at a location to be determined. Call Community Affairs at 718-735-0630 for more information.



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

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