NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD #8

ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2026 **VOLUME 47, NO. 1**

A note from the Chairperson:

Welcome to 2026!

May this New Year be one of Wisdom!

Let us embrace this new season, as we stand in hope for great things to come!

Whether last year was a triumphant year or one of disappointment, adversity or sorrow, please be encouraged with gratitude that you made it. Many did not…

Be thankful for a chance of new opportunities; Give space for grace for yourself and others.

Let's continue to lift each other up, give support to one another and grow stronger together as a community.

May you and your families' needs be fulfilled.

Thank you all for being a Wonderful part of this community!

Wishing you àll health, peace, joy and the very best!

Love & Blessings!
Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson
Community Board 8

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District Manager's Report

JOIN COMMUNITY BOARD 8!

Community Boards are the grassroots of our local government. With 18 community districts, Brooklyn has the most community boards of all five boroughs, each one full of people who care about the well-being of their community.

Community Boards work with city agencies, elected officials, and local leaders to ensure their neighborhood's perspectives and needs are incorporated into the decisions that will affect them. This includes everything from housing development and public transit to our city's budget and services like sanitation.

What each community board focuses on is largely up to the people who comprise it, which is why it's so important to get involved. To that end, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso has begun accepting community board membership applications. The application period will run through February 6, 2026, 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/. If you need assistance completing your application, you can make an appointment with Julia at the District office and she will assist you.

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2026 HOPE SURVEY

In January of 2026, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will be conducting its survey of New Yorkers experiencing street homelessness – and we need your help. They depend on the community to get help to all New Yorkers that need it.

Please join DHS on the evening of Tuesday, January 27, 2026, for their Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey. Your help in conducting this survey is essential to strengthening our ability to deliver effective and efficient services to this group of particularly vulnerable New Yorkers. Most people volunteer in their own neighborhoods, and the HOPE survey is an important time to connect with constituents on a project to help those in need.

Here's how it works – from approximately 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM the night of the 27th, volunteers will fan out across the five boroughs to canvass neighborhoods to observe the number of people experiencing street homelessness. Just one night of your time will help us collect information that is critical to our efforts to move New Yorkers from the streets and into safe, stable environments.

You are encouraged to sign up and participate. If you do not want to be boots on the ground, you can still help by posting about the HOPE survey on your social media profiles to help spread the word. Help make a difference at nyc.gov/hope.

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FARE INCREASES

As of January 4, 2026, it now costs $3 to ride the subway or bus. Reduced fare fees are $1.50. There are rolling fare caps of $35/week for subway and local buses. LIRR and Metro-North prices are going up an additional 4.5%.

Metrocards exited our lives as 2025 came to a close. Unlimited metrocards are no longer a thing and all must tap to pay with the same card to enjoy rolling fare caps.

Drivers can expect to pay 7.5% more at MTA tolls. Onboard tickets surcharges are now $2 more than previous fees. New day pass replaces round-trip tickets.

For more information and greater detail on the changes, visit https://www.mta.info/fares-tolls/2025-changes.

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THE 77TH PRECINCT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In response to an uptick in youth violence in 2025, the 77th Precinct Community Affairs, spearheaded by Detectives Wallen and Marte, are partnering with the community on several youth-centric events beginning May 2026. But to be successful, they need your help!

Vendors are welcome to table at these events, but all services and resources must be free. Preferred are resources geared towards helping youths and families to accomplish the following:

- Restore and build a strong state of health, mental and physical
- Cope with stress and anxiety
- Manage anger issues
- Mitigate peer pressure and bullying
- Foster effective communication skills
- Prioritize making good choices

Volunteers are also needed to spearhead group activities. The following instructors (and suggestions for missing activities if you know of someone that can provide them) are:

- Yoga Instructor
- Health Fitness Instructor
- Basketball (volunteer referees, players and coaches)
- Soccer participants (including players and coaches)
- Volleyball participants

To learn more, to volunteer, make suggestions, or otherwise help in planning or event organizing,

contact either Detective Wallen at (917) 683-6757 or Detective Marte at (929) 291-8481.

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JANUARY AWARENESS

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States. But as many as half of people with glaucoma don't know they have it.

Glaucoma has no early symptoms. The only way to check for it is to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam. There's no cure for glaucoma, but starting treatment as early as possible can help stop vision loss.

Anyone can get glaucoma, but some people are at higher risk, including people who:

-Are over age 60
-Are Black/African American and over age 40
-Are Asian American
-Are Hispanic/Latino
-Have a family history of glaucoma

This Glaucoma Awareness Month, join the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) in encouraging everyone at higher risk for glaucoma to get a dilated eye exam. It's the best way to protect your vision!

International Quality of Life Month is observed in January — a time that focuses on how a person can improve the quality of the life they are currently living. But, you may ask, how is that possible? Well, there is always something that you can add to your life to make it better. This can include a daily walk, a workout plan, reading a few pages of a book every day, or simply giving up on bad habits such as excessive drinking or smoking. Yes, this is the time you commit to improving your life, and the lives of those around you. The aim is to achieve happiness in any way that you can!

January is Mental Wellness Awareness Month. This is the time to recognize the importance of attending to our mental health, especially seeing the vast prevalence of mental health issues and disorders that exist in our world. Remember, mental health is just as important as physical health.

One out of every five adults experience mental health issues every year, this month of Mental Wellness Awareness intends to bring awareness towards good mental wellbeing.

This first month of 2026 gives us an opportunity to check in with ourselves and our loved ones to see how they are doing. New Year's resolutions often focus on physical fitness, but we should also keep in mind that mental health is just as important as physical health in our life. Maintaining mental wellness is not easy, it is crucial.

Mental Wellness Awareness month is a reminder to take better care of your mental health, release stress and become happier, and improve the quality of your relationships. You can participate by spending more time with your loved ones, being grateful for what you have in life, planning a trip, and becoming skilled at self-care.

Mental Wellness Awareness month began in 1949. Mental health is wealth. The stigma around mental health and treatment has long existed, even though this has started to change. Still, people hesitate to seek help or even talk about it with their loved ones for fear of being judged and facing unnecessary backlash. Seek professional help to improve your mental wellness.

If you or someone you know needs help, call 877-50-SOCIAL or 877-507-6242 for confidential support & treatment options.

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RESTITUTION AWARDS

New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga announced that DCWP has nearly $380,000 in unclaimed consumer restitution available from several recent consumer protection cases. New Yorkers should visit nyc.gov/DCWP to

see if they are eligible to claim any of the available funds from recent settlements with National Floors Direct, Rocket Tax, and several towing and used car dealership companies.

Available Restitution Funds:

National Floors Direct: $165,980.99 available

In February 2025, DCWP announced a settlement with National Floors Direct, a nationwide company that sells and installs flooring. The settlement required the business to pay $250,000 in restitution for consumers harmed by their pattern of deceptive business practices, which violates the City's Consumer Protection Law.

Consumers who paid National Floors Direct for services at their New York City home between January 1, 2019 and February 5, 2025, and can show that the business failed to perform work in a skillful manner, damaged their home, did not perform work agreed to, charged more than the initial estimate, or refused to issue a refund, should file a claim by February 5, 2026.

B&Z Auto: $150,000 available

B&Z Auto Enterprises LLC, a used car dealership in the Bronx, entered into a settlement with DCWP for falsely advertised vehicle prices, charging consumers more than the advertised price, and illegally disclaiming required warranties. B&Z was required to pay $200,000 in restitution with $150,000 still available for consumers to claim. Eligible consumers who have documentation that shows they paid more than they should have to B&Z should submit a claim for restitution by emailing ConsumerRestitution@dcwp.nyc.gov.

Rocket Tax: $28,000 available

In April 2025, DCWP settled with Rocket Tax, a paid tax preparer with locations across Brooklyn, for failing to disclose their fees. Under the settlement, Rocket Tax was required to pay $36,000 in restitution and $22,000 in civil penalties. Customers between December 1, 2023 and May 1, 2025 should file a claim by October 26, 2026.

CarGo: $16,815 available

CarGo, a used car dealership in the Bronx, settled with DCWP after its investigation revealed that they had committed several violations of the law, including failing to honor prices it advertised online. Consumers who have documentation showing they were required to pay inflated prices for used cars sold by CarGo should email DCWP at ConsumerRestitution@dcwp.nyc.gov.

Five J's Automotive Ltd.: $10,000 available

In June 2025, DCWP entered into a settlement agreement with a tow truck company named Five J's Automotive Ltd. The settlement agreement set aside $25,000 as restitution for consumers who were overcharged for towing or vehicle storage, or whose vehicles were damaged during the tow. Consumers who can prove their vehicle was towed by Five J's Automotive Ltd. and were either overcharged or paid to repair damages caused by the tow, should file a claim by June 2026 by emailing ConsumerRestitution@dcwp.nyc.gov.

Clutch Towing Inc.: $9,000 available

In March 2025, DCWP entered into a settlement agreement with a Brooklyn-based tow truck company named Clutch Towing Inc. The settlement provides $10,000 as restitution for consumers who were overcharged for towing and vehicle storage. Consumers who can prove their vehicle was towed by Clutch and were overcharged should file a claim by April 1, 2026 by emailing ConsumerRestitution@dcwp.nyc.gov.

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SENIOR BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

With age comes not just wisdom and grace, but certain entitlements to help our older adults enjoy more of their hard earned money and free time. Unfortunately, not too many older adults are aware of what they may actually be entitled to, so please
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take advantage of some of the perks below (courtesy of Dollar Perks).

Amazon: While Amazon doesn't offer a specific senior discount, seniors who qualify for government assistance programs like Medicaid, SNAP, or SSI can get a discounted Prime membership through Prime Access

Walgreens: Every Tuesday is Senior Day, where you get 20% off regular-priced items.

Michaels has a 10% senior discount every day on most in-store purchases for customers 55 and older who register for their rewards program.

Banana Republic Factory locations sometimes host special "Senior Days" with 10%–15% discounts. It varies by location, so be sure to check with your local store.

Phone Plan: T-Mobile's senior plans start at $60 per month for two lines and include unlimited talk, text, and data

Applebee's: Ready to enjoy some comfort food and cheerful vibes? Applebee's offers up to 10-15% off for seniors

IHOP + Denny's: Have a special "55+ menu" with smaller portions at lower prices. Plus, AARP members enjoy an extra 10% off their meal — sweet deal for your sweet tooth.

AMC Theatres: Most locations offer discounted tickets for seniors, typically saving you 30-50% on movie admission.

AARP: Offering seniors plenty of discounts on Airfare, Hotels, Cruises and Rental Cars, Restaurant & Meal Deliveries.
National Park Service Senior Pass: For a one-time fee of $80, U.S. citizens or permanent residents aged 62 and older can obtain a lifetime Senior Pass. This pass grants access to over 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks and wildlife refuges.

Amtrak Senior Discounts: 10% discount on most rail fares to travelers aged 65 and older.

Greyhound Senior Discount: 5% discount on fares for passengers aged 62 and older. This discount is available on cross-border routes.

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ENGERY UPDATES

Energy affordability is a serious concern for many New Yorkers. Winter bills may be particularly hard on vulnerable consumers, such as the elderly and households with fixed or low incomes, since energy use can often be higher during heating months.

Each winter season, the New York State Department of Public Service runs an outreach and education campaign designed to help consumers manage their energy bills while staying warm and safe during the cold weather months. We encourage consumers to take simple, low-cost energy savings measures to reduce energy use and to consider bill payment options and financial assistance programs to help manage energy costs.

Please help promote winter preparedness outreach and education messaging and materials to help control winter utility bills. This campaign includes:

Winter Forecast: For the 2025-26 winter season, in general, electric bills are expected to be about the same on average as last year, and natural gas bills are expected to be higher than last winter. An average residential electric customer using 600 kWh of electricity per month is expected to pay about $60 per month for supply this winter, up 1.4 percent from the same period a year ago, but the actual amount varies by utility.

The average residential customer using 719 therms of natural gas can expect to pay an estimated $224 per month during the winter heating season (November through March), up 8 percent from the same period a year ago, but note that the actual amount will vary widely by region due to the
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weather and usage. A colder-than-normal winter will cause usage and bills to increase.

Energy Pricing: An electricity or natural gas bill consists of two main parts: delivery and supply.

The delivery charge is the cost to transport the electricity or natural gas to you throughout the utility's system. This fee is regulated by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC).

The supply charge is the cost of the electricity or natural gas itself. The supply price is determined in a competitive marketplace and is not controlled by the PSC or the utilities.

On average, supply costs make up about 35-45% of your bill, depending on your local utility. Your energy bill depends on how much electricity or natural gas you used and the rate you are paying. In general, the more energy you use, the higher your bill will be.

Factors that Impact Energy Bills:

Price: The price of electricity or natural gas rises, and falls based on many factors, including the weather, the balance between supply and demand, as well as the amount and cost of natural gas in storage. When one of these factors changes, such as a widespread and prolonged cold spell, overall demand for energy increases, which puts upward pressure on commodity prices. Any change in the cost of supply can have a significant impact on your overall energy bill.

Usage: The weather—especially the temperature—plays a significant role in how much electricity and natural gas we use. For heating consumers, the colder the weather, the more energy is used by the average household, potentially increasing winter energy bills.

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CONQUER THE COLD

Winter in New York City can turn dangerous quickly so now is the time to prepare. Extreme cold, snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain can shut down roads, cause power disruptions, and put lives at risk. As temperatures drop, the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning rises.

Here's how to stay safe this winter:

- Make a household emergency plan so everyone knows how to stay in touch and what to do. Be ready to shelter in place when it's unsafe to go outside; follow official travel bans.

- Use space heaters safely. Keep them at least three feet away from anything flammable. Always plug them directly into a wall outlet. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home. Dress in warm layers and cover exposed skin during extreme cold.

Gather supplies. Build a stay-at-home kit for at least seven days. Include the following: Non-perishable food, water, and basic sanitation items; Medications and first aid supplies; warm clothing and blankets; flashlights, extra batteries, and power banks; extra water for drinking and sanitation in case plumbing freezes or service is disrupted.

Regularly check that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. Use flameless candles for religious observances and flashlights during power outages to prevent fires. Keep a fire extinguisher in your home.

Stay informed. Text NOTIFYNYC to 692-692 for emergency alerts. Then reply with your ZIP code. You can also visit: nyc.gov/notify to sign up. Check on neighbors, especially older adults, people with disabilities, and those living alone. Learn more about winter preparedness by visiting: on.nyc.gov/WinterWeather.

Spot the Signs of Frostbite & Hypothermia. Frostbite: pale, numb, or waxy skin and Hypothermia: shivering, confusion, or slurred speech. Call 911 immediately if these symptoms appear.

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MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid training is coming to the Brooklyn Public Library on January 14, 2026 from 9AM to 5PM at Grand Army Plaza Branch (10 Grand Army Plaza).

This full-day, evidence-based training will be facilitated by Marva Greer, Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Participants will gain practical skills to recognize signs of mental health challenges and respond effectively during a crisis.

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CAREER & RESOURCE EXPO 2026

Bridge Street Development Corporation and Digital Girl, Inc. are pleased to invite you to their annual Career and Resource Expo on January 22, 2026 from 9:30AM to 1:30PM. The expo will be held at Major Owens Health and Wellness Community Center located at 1561 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. A resume writing clinic will be held from 9:30AM to noon at the DGI Technology Center on the 3rd Floor.

For more information, contact Ivan Nichols at inichols@bsdcorp.org.

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GET A PROPERTY TAX BREAK!

Reminder: Property Tax Exemption Renewals
It's time for homeowners to renew their property tax exemptions for the 2026–27 tax year, including the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE), and Clergy Exemption.

Renewal notices were mailed back in October and the **deadline to renew is March 16, 2026**. Homeowners who do not renew may lose their exemption and see an increase in property taxes.

Renew online or by paper application. Visit www.nyc.gov/contactdof.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. Both the regular HEAP and emergency HEAP benefit application periods are open.

If you are eligible, 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.

Regular HEAP benefits for households who pay directly for heat based on actual usage are paid directly to the vendor that supplies the household's primary source of heat. The participating vendor list can be obtained by accessing the HEAP Participating Vendor List. Select your county of residence, the fuel type you use to heat your home, and press "Go".

Emergency HEAP benefits and eligibility are based on income, available resources, and the type of emergency. If you have an emergency, you must contact your HEAP Local District Contact for assistance.

Your household may be eligible for HEAP benefits if:

- A member of your household is a United States Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or
- You receive federally funded Temporary Assistance (TA), also known as Public Assistance (PA) or
- You receive Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)

Emergency Benefits eligibility requirements are:

- Your electricity is necessary for your heating system or thermostat to work and is either shut-off or scheduled to be shut off or
- Your electric or natural gas heat is off or scheduled to be shut-off or
- You are out of fuel, or you have less than one quarter tank of fuel oil, kerosene or propane or have less than a ten (10) day supply of wood, wood pellets, corn, or other deliverable heat source.

You must also meet one of the following:

- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size
- You meet any of the requirements for the standard benefit

For more information or to apply, visit https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/.

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NEWS AND UPDATES FROM YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy

The member is pleased to announce the following:

- Karaoke Campfire Movie Night on Friday, January 16, 2026 from 2:30 to 6PM. Van Dyke 2 Senior Center, 430 Dumont Avenue. Enjoy free hot chocolate, smores, and much more. Movie shown will be *Weapons.*
- The District 41 Community Advisory Board meeting on Saturday, January 31, 2026 11AM-12:30 PM at 400 Rockaway Avenue. This event is free and open to the public.
- Veterans services are available in the office every 1st Wednesday of the month from 9AM to 3PM with Veterans of Foreign Wars. Appointments are necessary; call the office at 718-953-3097 to schedule an appointment.

Councilmember Chi Osse

The member is pleased to announce the following:

- Veterans services are available in the office every 2nd Friday of the month from 10AM to 5PM with Veterans of Foreign Wars. Appointments are necessary; call the office at 718-919-0740 to schedule an appointment.
- Suicide Prevention is year-round. Resources are available. The member has allocated funds to Samaritans, and they are able to offer an updated collection of suicide prevention information, services, tools, resources, webinars, and more to district 36. To download resources, visit https://bit.ly/CD36_Prevent-Suicide.

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman

The member would like to share the following:

Deed Theft Legislation: Assemblymember Zinerman is introducing comprehensive deed-theft legislation to strengthen protections for homeowners facing fraudulent transfers and foreclosure-related scams. The bill closes loopholes that allow bad actors to exploit lengthy court timelines by ensuring that victims can remain in their homes during active litigation. Critically, the legislation establishes clear cease-and-desist authority allowing the state to immediately halt fraudulent activity once patterns of abuse are identified, rather than waiting years for final court resolution. This moves the system from reactive to preventative, stopping harm before families lose their homes.

BSVAC — Deed to the Land: Under Assemblymember Zinerman's leadership, the Bed-Stuy Volunteer Ambulance Corps has officially been granted the deed to its land, securing the long-term stability of one of Central Brooklyn's most essential emergency service institutions. This action protects BSVAC from displacement, strengthens eligibility for capital funding, and ensures that this community-based, life-saving organization can continue serving Bed-Stuy and neighborhoods across Brooklyn for generations.
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Two Additional Bills Passed by AM Zinerman:

1. **Micromobility & Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Legislation**

Assemblymember Zinerman passed legislation relating to operating manuals for micromobility devices, including electric-assist bicycles, limited-use motorcycles powered by lithium-ion batteries, and the batteries themselves. This law strengthens consumer and public-safety protections by ensuring that clear, standardized safety guidance is provided with these devices—helping prevent fires, improper charging, and unsafe storage practices. In dense urban communities like ours, this is a critical step toward reducing preventable lithium-ion battery incidents in homes, buildings, and on our streets.

2. **Kings County Cease-and-Desist Zone Legislation**

Assemblymember Zinerman is continuing legislation to amend the Real Property Law to designate Kings County as an official cease-and-desist zone for real estate solicitation.

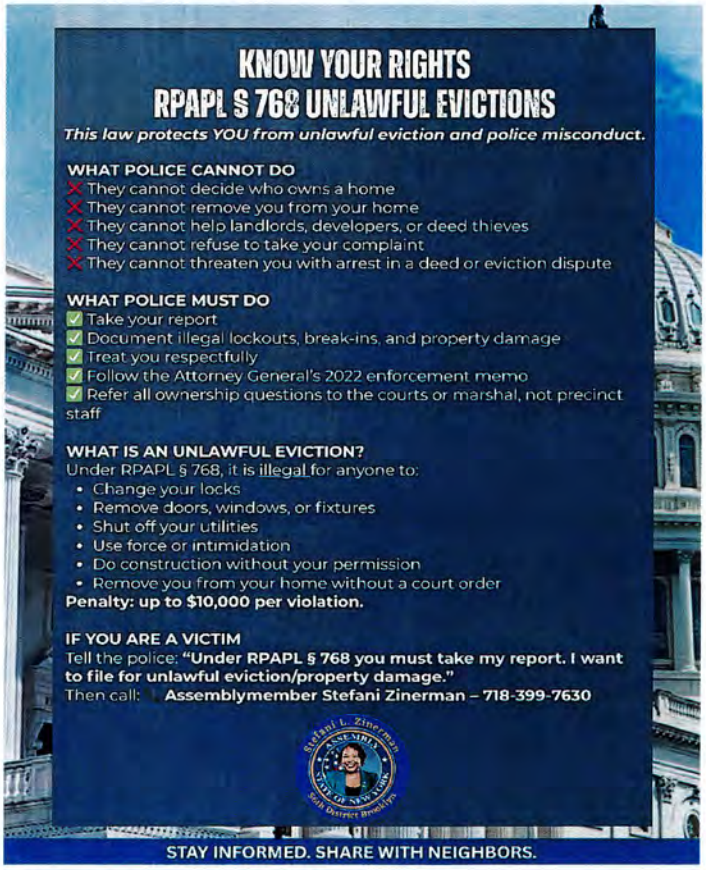
Under this law, Kings County is added to the statewide cease-and-desist list maintained by the Secretary of State. Property owners in designated zones are protected from predatory and aggressive real-estate solicitation tactics often tied to deed theft and housing fraud. The bill also establishes an affirmative defense so that homeowners who legitimately advertise their property for sale are not unfairly penalized under nonsolicitation rules.

Together, these reforms strengthen enforcement against bad actors while protecting homeowners who act in good faith. The message is clear: Brooklyn will not be a safe harbor for predatory real estate schemes, and residents deserve strong, proactive protections in one of the hottest housing markets in the country.

Additionally, the member would like to inform the community of the following upcoming events:

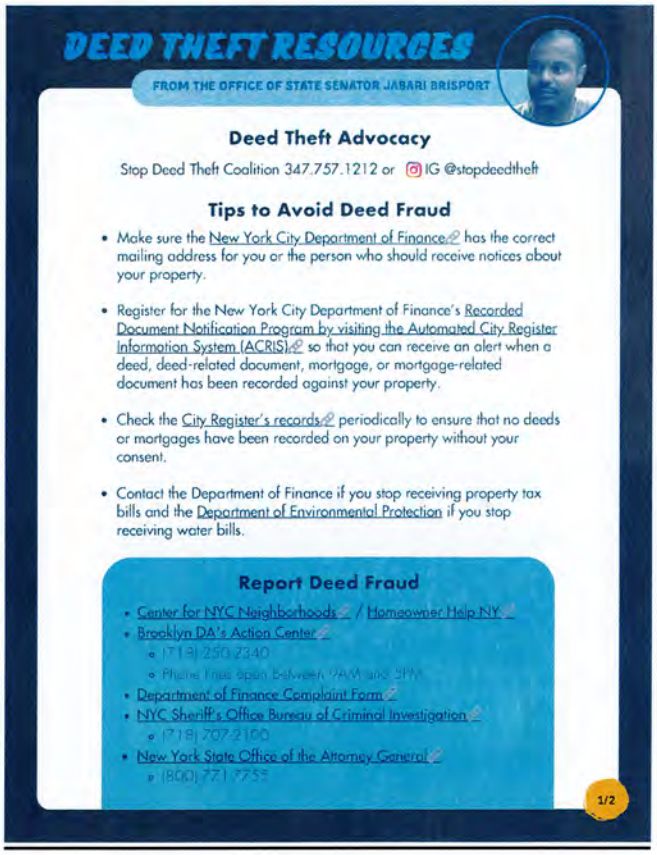
- Homeowner Management, Saturday, January 10th 11AM to 1PM: Empower Your Home—Energy efficiency, safety, and preparedness with NYSERDA, ConEdison, and Solar One.
- The People's Plate: Growing Food & Connecting Classroom and Community Gardens—Join urban farmers and students to cultivate the next generation of food leaders to reimagine food access and equity in the 56th AD on Thursday, January 15th from 1 to 4PM at PS 21, Crispus Attucks School, 180 Chauncey Street.

- Know Your Rights: Unlawful Evictions—Section 768 of the RPAPL protects tenants from unlawful eviction and police misconduct. It identifies the does and don'ts that officers can engage in. If you are a victim, please report it immediately to the Assemblywoman's office.



Senator Jabari Brisport

The Senator is advocating diligently in Albany on Deed Theft. His office has put together a fact sheet on tips to avoid deed fraud:



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$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Encourage your child to apply for a $5,000 scholarship! Now thru the end of February, high school seniors are invited to apply for an Albert Shanker Scholarship. The process is easier than ever with the new online portal.

Candidates must be financially eligible and be accepted in a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. The deadline to apply for a $5,000 scholarship is Saturday, Feb. 28. For more information or to apply, visit https://bit.ly/3ME1Uau.

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BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services offices affordable home ownership, development program, and home improvement projects courses in partnership with NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

Income eligible homeowners of one- or two-family homes can qualify for up to $50,000 each to make the necessary repairs in their home to avoid hazardous living conditions. Eligible repairs include plumbing and sewer related repairs; water main; gas emergencies; water leaks; roofs and windows; boiler replacement/conversions; handicap accessible installations; and much more.

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services is located at 20 Bancroft Place. For more information, you may call their office at 718-919-2100.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

The next **77th Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at Global School Brooklyn, 760 Sterling Place (corner of Bedford Avenue).

This is an opportunity to come together, share concerns, hear important updates, and work collaboratively toward a safer, stronger, and more connected community. Your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference.

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The next **78th Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:30PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn.

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The next meeting of **Community Board 8** will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6PM at Calvary Community Church, 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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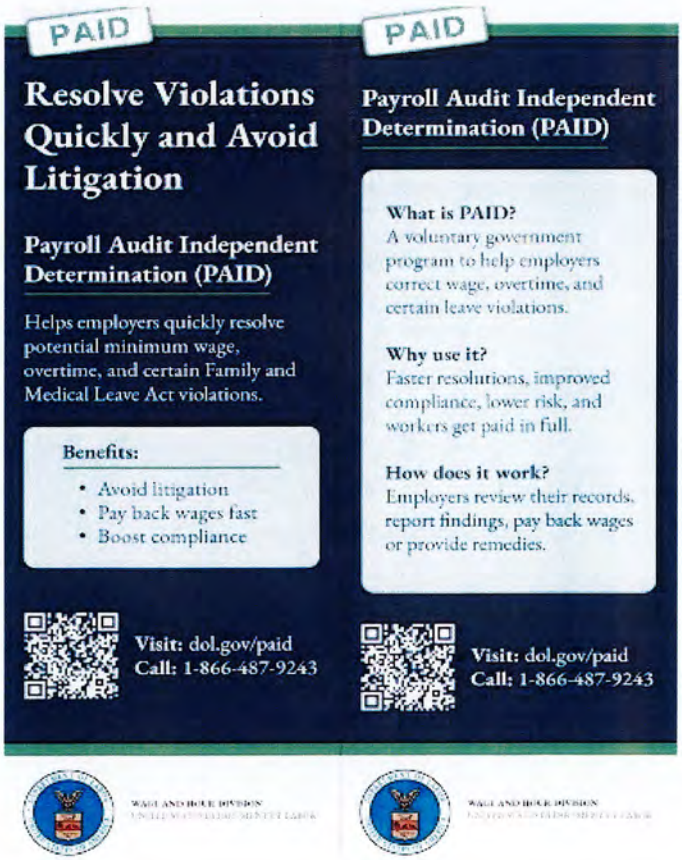
UNITED STATES DEPT. OF LABOR

Running a business is tough. Balancing payroll, scheduling, and labor law compliance can be

overwhelming. If past mistakes led to violations, there is a voluntary program that helps you correct them efficiently and without penalties.

The Payroll Audit Independent Determination (PAID) program quickly resolves overtime and minimum wage violations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), providing a framework for employers to address those violations without litigation.

Employers that self-report are working in good faith with the Wage and Hour Division to correct mistakes and provide due compensation and appropriate FMLA remedies to their employees. Therefore, these employers will not be subject to civil money penalties. The division will oversee resolution of any potential violations by reviewing the amount of wages found due and supervising these payments to employees. For information about the PAID program, please visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/PAID.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Katie Taylor, who will celebrate a birthday in the month of January.

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CB8 IN 2025

In 2025, CB8 members helped organize, volunteered for, or otherwise participated in several events and functions. From volunteering to spruce up tree beds along Eastern Parkway, helping young men learn to tie ties, commercial corridor walkthroughs, organizing a community baby shower, distribute food during the holidays, learn CPR, attend boisterous and sometimes acrimonious meetings…members and residents of CB8 should be celebrated for their hard work and dedication.

ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:
Community Board No. 8
Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson
Michelle George, District Manager/Editor
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
Zoie Moses, College Aide

1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Phone: 718-467-5574
Google Text: 732-896-0244
(Available only for emergencies and during normal business hours.)
Website: www.brooklyncb8.org
Email: brooklyncb8@gmail.com