

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**MARCH 2025**

**VOLUME 46, NO. 2**

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT!**



**Ms. Kim Watson, LMSW**

was appointed to the Board in 2020. She is the current Chair of the Parks, Youth & Education Committee, and the Vice Chair of Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Watson states, “Championing mental health education is one of my driving factors; a lot of people are not necessarily cognizant of the ways that childhood trauma can influence mental health. As such, bringing awareness to the connection(s) between trauma and the various mental health concerns (anxiety, depression, codependency, and so much more) has been something I’ve strived to do first with my role on the Health and Human Services Committee, and now with the Parks, Youth & Education Committee.”

Ms. Watson first joined the community board to give back to the neighborhood that shaped her. Growing up here in Brooklyn and witnessing firsthand the importance of strong community support and resources inspires her passion for improving Youth and Education, Health Services, and NYC Parks to create a better environment for everyone. She states that being on the board allows her to advocate for meaningful change and ensure our community continues to thrive.

Ms. Watson cites the Rumi quote, “Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder,” as words of inspiration we should all remember and live by.

*District Manager’s Report*

*Municipal Services Update*

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 03/03/2025 through 03/09/2025.

	Year-to-Date		
	2025	2024	%Chg
Murder	0	3	-100
Rape	3	3	0.0
Robbery	22	32	-31.2
Felony Assault	66	56	17.9
Burglary	26	29	-10.3
Grand Larceny	49	68	-27.9
GL Auto	14	17	17.6

The overall change year-to-date is **-13.46**.



**CB8 GETS ITS FIRST LICENSED  
DISPENSARY**

As of March 5, 2025, Community Board 8 has its first officially licensed adult recreational use dispensary, OC Dispensary located at 769 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. John’s Place). We continue to encourage the community to report illicit cannabis shops so that we can ensure that our residents are kept safe from possibly harmful illicit products.



***THE FLOWER HOUR AT BROOKLYN  
PUBLIC LIBRARY***

Are you a budding entrepreneur in New York's cannabis industry? If so, then you are invited to join the Brooklyn Business Solutions Center for "The Flower Hour," a special session of the popular Joint Ventures educational series which provides free business counseling to aspiring cannabis business owners

Participants can expect one-on-one consultation sessions (15 minutes per entrepreneur) with expert guidance on navigating NYS cannabis regulations and MRTA compliance; practical business development advice tailored to the cannabis industry; and resources to help you launch successfully and legally in NYC's emerging market.

This session is specifically designed for individuals who have secured or are in the process of applying for cannabis licenses but haven't yet opened their doors for business.

The event will be held on Tuesday March 25th, 2025 from 1 to 3PM at Civic Commons, Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn. Space is limited to ensure quality consultation time. One slot per business and walk ins are accepted as availability permits. Register at <https://bit.ly/43BPIgS>.

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***MERCHANT ORGANIZING GRANTS AND  
BID FORMATION GRANTS***

The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched two grant programs to help catalyze merchant organizing and Business Improvement District (BID) formation across New York City.

The [FY26 Merchant Organizing Grant](#) will fund nonprofit organizations to support commercial districts and merchants associations across New York City. Applicants must propose place-based projects and services that aim to form new merchants associations or revitalize existing merchants associations in a specific neighborhood.

The FY26 Merchant Organizing Grant will fund **up to \$100,000 per neighborhood** to nonprofit organizations to lead merchant organizing efforts. Grant work will be implemented between July 2025 and June 2026. Grants will be awarded through a competitive application process.

Community-based organizations who wish to form new merchants associations or revitalize existing merchants associations should apply. **Applications close on Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 11:59 PM.**

**BID Formation Grants** are available to place-based community-based development organizations (CBDOs) that are currently working with a formal steering committee that has completed and analyzed needs assessment survey data.

- Applicants may be in the planning, outreach, or legislative phases of the BID formation process outlined at <https://on.nyc.gov/4bOYxGd>.
- Up to \$100,000 per year per neighborhood will be awarded to grantees for the staffing, planning, and implementation of a BID formation proposal.

Community-based organizations who are already working toward BID formation; have a formal steering committee and have conducted a needs assessment survey; have been engaged with SBS already should apply. **Applications close on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:59 PM**

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***NEIGHBORHOOD COLLECTIVE IMPACT  
PROJECTS***

The Neighborhood Collective Impact opportunity provides up to \$25,000 each for local nonprofits to address challenges facing communities and build collaboration. Proposals for projects that will promote community engagement, local voices, and voter participation in the 2025 municipal election are being sought for funding opportunities. Brooklyn Org will select three proposals for project-based funding, of up to \$25,000 per

partnership. The deadline to apply is **Friday, April 4, 2025**. For more information, visit <https://brooklyn.org/neighborhood-collective-impact-project-grants/>.

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### **IMMIGRATION RIGHTS WHEN INTERACTING WITH I.C.E.**

There is a lot of fear in New York City's immigrant community at this time. Fear can be combatted with knowledge. Know your rights! (Brought to you by Congresswoman Yvette Clarke)

- You have the **right to remain silent and to contact an attorney.**
- You have the **right to due process and to have your case heard before a judge.**

#### **If you interact with law enforcement or ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):**

- Do not volunteer ANY information.
- You do not need to provide your immigration status or place of birth.
- Do not show or use any false or fraudulent documentation, including a fake name.
- You do not have any obligation to sign any document without speaking to an attorney. **Do not sign a document you do not understand.**
- **Ask to see a warrant** before you open the door, should ICE visit your home or place of work.
- Remember, anything you tell an officer can be later used against you in immigration court.

#### **If you have been arrested and are facing a deportation order:**

- You generally have the right to a hearing to challenge a deportation order, unless you have signed something that waives your right to a hearing or have opted for a voluntary departure.
- If you are told you do NOT have the right to see an immigration judge, you should speak with a lawyer immediately.
- You have the right to an attorney, but the government does not have to provide one for you. There may be free or low-cost alternatives available. If you fear prosecution or torture in your home country, tell an officer and contact a lawyer immediately. You may have additional rights if you have this fear.

#### **Are there other resources available to me?**

**YES! ABSOLUTELY!** Due to Congressional Rules your elected officials are only able to direct you to resources provided by official local, state, and federal government entities. This means that you may find additional, non-government resources, like non-profits and law firms, that may be helpful to your circumstances. You are encouraged to do your own research to find all the available resources available to you.

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### **COMPOSTING IS NOW MANDATORY**

**ALL NYC residents are currently required to separate yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper from trash and recycling. Starting April 1, 2025, property owners will be subject to fines.**

Curbside Composting service is free and collected weekly in every borough on the same day as recycling. All leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper. This includes: all leaf and yard waste, including flowers and Christmas trees; all food scraps, including meat, bones, shells, and dairy; prepared and cooked foods; greasy uncoated paper plates and pizza boxes; products certified or labeled compostable.

DO NOT compost trash such as diapers, personal hygiene products, animal waste, wrappers, non-paper packaging, and foam products. DO NOT compost recyclable materials.

Set out your leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper in a labeled bin with a secure lid or in your DSNY brown bin. If you do not have a brown bin, you can use one of your own. However, it must be 55 gallons or less with a secure lid. Line your bins with a clear plastic, paper, or compostable bag to help keep it clean. No black trash bags.

Extra leaf and yard waste including twigs and branches can be put in a paper lawn and leaf bag or clear plastic bag and placed next to the bin. Twigs and branches can also be bound with twine and set curbside. Do not put any food waste or food-soiled paper into bags of yard waste. No black trash bags.

You can purchase a DSNY brown bin at [www.bins.nyc](http://www.bins.nyc). If using your own bin, order a free composting bin decal!

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### ***DON'T BE A SCAM VICTIM***

Don't fall victim to scams this tax season or any time!

Tax season is peak time for scammers posing as the IRS or your financial institution via fake texts, emails, calls, and social media messages to steal personal and financial information.

Remember, neither the IRS nor your financial institution will ever:

- Contact you unexpectedly for personal or financial details. This includes verification of these details.
- Demand immediate payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or prepaid debit cards.
- Threaten arrest, deportation, or license revocation.
- Continuously change subjects before landing on an enticing offer.

Protect yourself and stay safe. Ignore and report suspicious messages, emails, and telephone calls. Never share personal information unless verified, and definitely do not correct any misinformation to a caller (remember: they have most of your information and just need one or two more pieces of information). Enable multi-factor authentication and use strong passwords. Set up a pin to use with your financial institution rather than verifying your social security number as a form of identification.

Also, remain on alert for “smishing” scams, where scammers will send text messages containing links that direct you to a foreign domain. Such messages can include delivery information, statements of toll collection, and others. Scammers use these links to convince you to provide credit card information or other personally identifiable information. Do not click any links unless you can verify the source of the text message.

Constant vigilance is the only way to stay as safe as possible in the world of identity theft and scams.

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### ***SUMMER RISING***

NYC Public Schools in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development are excited to offer Summer Rising once again to NYC students in grades K-8 this summer. A video on application being open can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Kir771lquUg>.

Any student attending school in New York City, who is currently in kindergarten through eighth grade (in the 2024-2025 school year) is eligible for Summer Rising. Seats are limited; please apply to Summer Rising if your child is planning to attend most of the summer programming.

The application deadline is March 28, 2025. You can obtain an application by visiting <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/>. Enrollment results and the waitlist will be available beginning April 24, 2025: Results and Waitlist will be available at the same link above. Note: There is no automatic enrollment.

The Summer Rising session runs from July 2, 2025 thru August 8<sup>th</sup> for middle school students or August 15<sup>th</sup> for elementary school students. This program is FREE.

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### ***FREE ADULT GED CLASSES***

Free High School Equivalency (GED) classes are offered for adults 21 years and older. Enrollment is ongoing on a rolling basis. All evening classes are held at PS 221, the Toussain L'Ouverture School, located at 791 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. Classes are held Monday thru Thursdays from 5:40PM to 9PM.

Daytime classes are available at several locations. Classes are held from 8:30AM to 3PM at RiseBoro Community Center located at 1474 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn and PS165, the Ida Posner School, located at 76 Lott Avenue, Brooklyn.

For more information or to register, call/text 917-612-7831 or email [oaces7@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:oaces7@schools.nyc.gov).

## ***NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY OUTREACH***

The mission of the NYC Dept. of Transportation's Safety Outreach Team is to educate New Yorkers on traffic safety and promote the Vision Zero Initiative. DOT aims to help our communities stay safe in the traffic environment. With New Yorkers using various modes of transportation, whether walking, biking, or driving, it's important they remain aware and prepared for any situation while traveling.

DOT's Safety Outreach Team would like to bring their traffic safety programs to the community. Their offerings include:

- Afterschool Programs for children K-12
- Summer Camp Workshops
- Traffic Safety Workshops for Parents (for caregivers of younger children)
- Traffic Safety Workshops for Older New Yorkers
- Community Site-Specific Event Tabling (including a brief Vision Zero presentation)

During these sessions, a NYC DOT Safety Outreach Specialist will cover key safety risks and provide helpful tips to encourage vigilance for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicle passengers. The content will be tailored to suit specific needs and events.

DOT is looking to partner with local schools, older adult centers, and community based organizations for events. If you have an upcoming event, please feel free to contact Joan Renesca directly at 646-483-0734, or via email at [jrenesca@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:jrenesca@dot.nyc.gov).

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## ***JOB READINESS AND PREPAREDNESS***

Are you interviewing for a new job? Not sure what questions you might get or what questions you should be asking? Join Brooklyn Public Library for an interactive webinar on getting ready for interviewing. They will discuss the skills that can help you succeed and practice those skills together as a group.

This event is held on a rolling and regular basis. To participate, register at [www.tinyurl.com/jobinterviewprep2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/jobinterviewprep2025).

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## ***BECOME A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL COACH***

Transform Your Passion into Purpose: Empower Communities Through Financial Literacy. Are you prepared to make a significant impact in your community?

The **DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy at Medgar Evers College** is pleased to offer a 12-week Financial Capability Coach Training program. This initiative is designed to equip motivated individuals with the necessary tools to assist others in achieving financial independence.

Become a Certified Financial Capability Coach! Acquire knowledge in areas such as mortgage relief, debt resolution, and asset protection. Develop practical skills that facilitate long-term financial stability for families. Contribute to the empowerment of low-income and underserved communities through educational initiatives.

This program is free and space is limited. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 24, 2025. Submit your Training & Partnership Agreement Form along with your resume to: [Latoya.Benjamin57@mec.cuny.edu](mailto:Latoya.Benjamin57@mec.cuny.edu).

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## ***UTILITIES CUSTOMER SERVICE POP-UP***

This is a Utilities Customer Service Event with the following companies: Con Edison, The Department of Environmental Protection and National Grid. Customers will be assisted on how to read their bills and be able to sign up for payment assistance options. The event will be at the BKLYN Commons at 495 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225. This is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

## ***BROOKLYN CLEAR***

Brooklyn CLEAR (Collaborative Legal Engagement Assistance Response) redirects low-level drug offenders who receive Desk Appearance Tickets to community-based treatment services as an alternative to incarceration and prosecution. Because they do not know where to seek or find help, many low-level offenders find themselves facing jail time instead of necessary treatment.

Brooklyn CLEAR seeks to provide an alternative as a joint project between EAC Network, Kings County District Attorney's Office, the NYC Police Department, VOCAL-NY, The Legal Aid Society, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and New York City Council. They pair participants with an on-call Peer Mentor to engage them in recommended treatment services which can lead to the District Attorney dropping all charges and sealing arrest records upon completion.

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## ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM NYC COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER***

New York City Comptroller Brad Lander cordially invites you and all NYCHA constituents to join him along with Councilmember Crystal Hudson for a NYCHA Resident Assembly **on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 6-8PM** at the Ingersoll Community Center Gymnasium (177 Myrtle Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11201). RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3DB1UUL>.

All NYCHA residents are encouraged to attend and make your voices heard! Join to discuss the issues that matter most to you and your community.

This is an opportunity to:

- **Learn about ongoing accountability efforts:** Hear about the NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's recent audits of NYCHA.
- **Engage with your elected officials:** Ask questions and hold the NYC Comptroller and Councilmember Crystal Hudson accountable.
- **Collaborate on solutions:** Work together to create positive change within our NYCHA community.

Your participation is vital in shaping the future of NYCHA homes.

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## ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANTONIO REYNOSO***

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso is hosting a Deed Theft Prevention Workshop with Brooklyn Legal Services on **Tuesday, March 25th, 2025** from 5 to 8 PM. The event will be held at **Bed-Stuy Restoration Corp. 1368 Fulton St. Brooklyn, NY 11216** and will have information on deed theft as well as information on the tax lien sale. To register for the event, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/g/7Kc2gadQ97>.

In the age of AI, digital and online fraud has become more aggressive and sophisticated. Learn when to spot it and how to protect yourself. On **Tuesday, April 15, 2025** from 2 to 4PM, the BP will host a **Fraud Risk Prevention 101** event. The event will be held at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Courtroom, Downtown Brooklyn.

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## ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERT CARROLL***

Assemblyman Robert Carroll is hosting several events on Monday, March 31, 2025. All services will be provided on the sidewalk in front of his district office located at 416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Street), Brooklyn.

### **MTA MetroCard Van (10AM to 2PM)**

Get assistance with all your MetroCard-related issues including reduced fare applications; transferring balances; lost, stolen, or damaged cards, questions about OMNY, and much more.

### **NYPD Crime Prevention Unit (10AM to 2PM)**

Meet the Crime Prevention Officers from the 72<sup>nd</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Precincts and hear how you can better safeguard your property and ensure your personal safety and security as warmer weather approaches.

**Unclaimed Funds with the NYS Comptroller  
(10AM to 12:30PM)**

Learn about the types of funds that are held by the NYS Comptroller and see if you're eligible to file a claim to get your money back.

For additional information, call the Assemblyman's office at 718-788-7221.



***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILMEMBER CRYSTAL HUDSON***

The office of Councilmember Crystal Hudson is pleased to present the Spring 2025 series.

**Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10AM:** Film Screening: "9 to 5" (30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn)

**Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 11AM:** Healthy Aging: Fitness for Older Adults (546 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn)

**Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 12PM:** Restorative Movement Class (3 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn)

**Wednesdays, April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2PM:** African Art Tour & Discussion (1360 Fulton Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn)

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10AM:** Film Screening: "Corrina, Corrina" (30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn)

RSVP is required for all events. Call the Councilmember's office at 718-260-9191 to RSVP.



***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILMEMBER CHI OSSE***

The office of Councilmember Chi Osse is pleased to present the following:

**Tax Lien Resources:** More than one thousand properties in District 36 alone are on the tax lien sale. Property owners must take action before May 19<sup>th</sup> to remove their property from the list. To this end, the member's office is working with the NYC

Dept. of Finance on a Tax Lien Sale Workshop on two days: March 25<sup>th</sup> (Noon to 4PM) and April 22<sup>nd</sup> (5-8PM). Property owners can learn about the different options available to them. Both workshops will be held at 1368 Fulton Street in the Multipurpose Room.

**Family Law Clinics:** 10AM to 4PM on March 28<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>

Individual and confidential legal consultation on issues ranging from child/spousal support; custody/visitation; orders of protection; assistance and options for victims of abuse; issues regarding consumer debt and identity theft; much more.

**Free Legal Advice (including legal Immigration Advice):** 10AM to 5PM on March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Consult with an experienced civil attorney. Appointments encouraged but walk-ins welcome.

**Rat Academy Training:** Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30PM (1368 Fulton Street, Multipurpose Room)

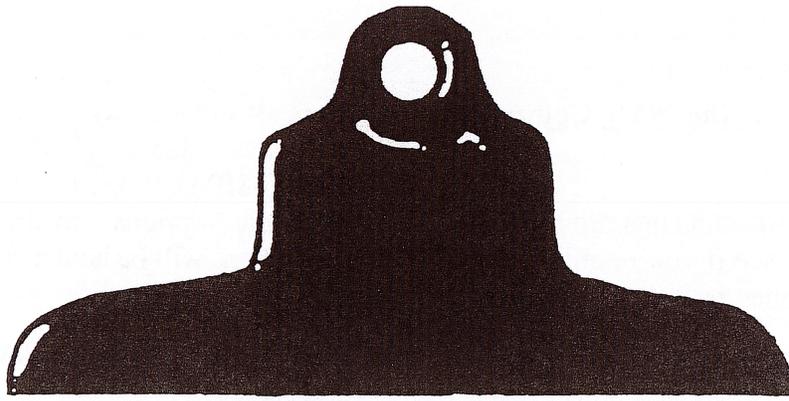
Learn about rat prevention methods. Free training offered to building superintendents and staff, homeowners and tenants, management companies, business owners, and anyone else interested in learning how to do their part in reducing the impact of rodents on the city. Attendees will be entered into a raffle to win a rodent-resistant garbage bin. To register, visit [www.bit.ly/ratacademy331](http://www.bit.ly/ratacademy331) or email [ratportal@health.nyc.gov](mailto:ratportal@health.nyc.gov) specifying the training date.

Unless otherwise stated, all services will be offered at the member's office located at 1360 Fulton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 500. To register for legal advice, call 718-919-0740.



***MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM***

Join the Crown Heights North Association on Monday, March 24, 2025 from 6 to 8PM for a 2025 Mayoral Candidates Forum with Preservation



Organizations. CHNA, along with fellow preservation organizations across the city is hosting this event to allow the candidates to discuss their positions on issues of concern to the preservation community.

This is a Zoom webinar and registration is required. Register at <https://bit.ly/4icjayt>.

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**MY SISTERS KEEPER CLOTHING DONATION**

My Sister's Keeper (MSK) is a NYC Department of Education Initiative for young girls. The organization is asking for support with clothing donations to redistribute to youths in Brooklyn.

They are collecting prom attire and accessories to support students who might need a little extra help to shine on their special night. Your generous donations can make all the difference! Accepted donations include formal dresses, shoes, suits, accessories, ties, dress shirts, hijabs, abayas, and anything else that might help make prom an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Drop off your items at Edward R. Murrow High School in Room 109 during March and April, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-3:00pm. For more information, please reach out to Ms. Contreras at [DContreras5@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:DContreras5@schools.nyc.gov).

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Peter Anekwe, Ms. Dorothy Bemby-Guet (one of CB8's most active community participants, who recently celebrated her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on February 7<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Tafari John-King, Ms. Xeerxeema Jordan (one of the Board's most active community participants

after serving nearly 20 years as a member, who recently turned 85), Mr. Bobby Lapointe, Mr. Meredith Staton (CB8's longest serving member since the inception of Community Boards, who also recently celebrated his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday), and Ms. Sharon Wedderburn.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Mark Thurton, on the recent transition of his sister and to Ms. Robin Smith on her aunt's recent transition.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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**ACROSS THE BOARD** is a monthly publication:  
**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Zoie Moses, College Aide**

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**(Available only for emergencies and during normal business hours.)**

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