

ACROSS THE BOARD

MAY 2026

VOLUME 47, NO. 5

District Manager's Report

Welcome New CB8 Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members to Community Board 8:

- Ms. Nie Alston
- Mr. Jason Barefoot
- Mr. Leonard Descartes
- Mr. Hardy Fischer
- Mr. David Kalinsoki
- Mr. Alexandr Mara
- Mr. Wendell Sweet
- Ms. Cheryl Walcott
- Ms. Ferdinanda Williams-Nichols

May your membership on the board be fruitful and rewarding.

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### ***Municipal Services Update***

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 05/04/2026 through 05/10/2026.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2026         | 2025 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 0            | 1    | -100  |
| Rape           | 10           | 6    | 66.7  |
| Robbery        | 53           | 46   | 15.2  |
| Felony Assault | 140          | 160  | -12.5 |
| Burglary       | 46           | 49   | -6.1  |
| Grand Larceny  | 120          | 117  | 2.6   |
| GL Auto        | 43           | 36   | 19.4  |

The overall change year-to-date is **-0.72**

Happy Spring! As temperatures begin to rise, we would like to remind you of the Department of Sanitation's sidewalk and gutter cleaning regulations. Property owners must clean sidewalks (including areas like tree pits, grass strips, etc.) and gutter areas (18 inches from the curb into the street) along the building perimeter. If you fail to keep the sidewalks and gutters near your property clean and unobstructed, **you may be fined up to \$100.**

Litter and sweepings must be picked up and placed in bins with secure lids for collection. Public DSNY litter baskets may not be used for this purpose. DSNY will inspect sidewalks during specific times of the day. Sidewalk cleaning enforcement times depend on the type of property.

Although enforcement agents will issue tickets for dirty sidewalks and gutters only during the specified time periods, they may issue tickets for all other violations at any time.

**Residential Properties** enforcement occurs during a 1-hour time period twice a day, 7 days a week.

- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Commercial Properties** enforcement times are limited to two 1-hour periods per day. The exact times depend on your address.

Although the commercial routing times vary by where the business is located, all commercial premises should be maintained (the sidewalk and the area 18 inches from the curb) at the beginning and end of the day. This makes good business sense and helps keep the community clean.

For more information about the specific commercial routing times for a particular location, call 311.

### ***LIBRARY FUNDING RESTORED!***

After much public outcry, Mayor Zohran Mamdani has decided to restore funding to the city's library system. Per the Gothamist, under the executive budget unveiled recently, Mayor Mamdani will add an additional \$31.7 million in funding to the three library systems — Queens, Brooklyn and New York — as requested by the City Council. Library funding accounts for less than \$500 million, or less than .5%, of the city's overall \$124.5 billion budget.

### ***THE PEOPLE'S MONEY***

The People's Money (TPM) is a citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process where New Yorkers decide how to spend part of the city's budget to help their communities thrive. This process happens every year and is open to all New Yorkers, including youth and immigrants.

The city budget is in New Yorkers' hands. Voting is open until June 21<sup>st</sup> for several borough wide initiatives and programs. All ideas were proposed by and for New Yorkers — now it's your turn to decide which ideas get funded and become reality. Cast your ballot and make your voice heard!

To find out more and to vote, visit <https://www.participate.nyc.gov/?locale=en>.

### ***ID NYC***

It's been 11 years since ID NYC was released yet the benefits of the card in your wallet remain as strong as ever! IDNYC provides a free, secure, government-issued photo identification card for all NYC residents (aged 10 and older) regardless of

immigration status. Your IDNYC card is a broadly accepted, official form of identification, accepted:

- By City agencies to access many services and programs;
- By NYPD for the purposes of issuing summons or desk appearance tickets instead of arrest;
- For entry into public buildings, like schools;
- For taking the high school equivalency exam in New York City;
- By employers, when submitted with proof of work authorization.
- Free one-year membership to most cultural institutions (such as Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Museum, Bronx Zoo, Brooklyn Aquarium just to name a few)
- Entertainment discounts

Your IDNYC card also offers a wide variety of exciting benefits that make it more than just an ID card. Your card can help you experience everything New York has to offer.

For more information and to learn where and how to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/4fgGKeU>.

### ***ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM***

Veterans in NYC and Westchester who receive VA benefits—specifically a Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension—are eligible for monthly bill discounts through Con Edison's Energy Affordability Program (EAP). Eligible veterans must apply directly to receive these, and the program offers significant savings on monthly energy bills.

### ***NYC GARBAGE BIN UPDATE***

Six new Community Districts across the city will have 100% trash containerization by the end of 2027. Community Board 8 is one them. This announcement means that our district will have zero trash bags on the streets next fall, with the

Mamdani administration committing to full citywide trash containerization by end of 2031.

Over the course of the next year, DSNY will assign Empire Bins to all buildings in the six districts with more than 30 units. Buildings with 10 to 30 units will be given an option to either have an Empire Bin assigned to them or use smaller “wheelie bins,” as all properties with one to nine units are already required to do citywide. The Department of Sanitation is expecting that this expansion will use more than 6,500 Empire Bins for more than 3,500 medium- and high-density buildings.

The bins can only be opened by building staff with a keycard, or by sanitation workers. Side-loading garbage trucks pull up to the bins and dump their contents into the compactor, avoiding the need for sanitation workers to lift trash bags from the curb and around parked cars.

Buildings with 1 to 9 residential units will be required to use NYC Bins for their trash starting in June 2026, yet another step in the city’s plan to remove the mountains of black bags from our sidewalks, reclaim public space and improve quality of life.

DSNY announced that all nine sizes and colors of official NYC Bins are now available at NYC Home Depot locations, for in-store pickup via [homedepot.com/NYCBins](https://www.homedepot.com/NYCBins), or for delivery via Instacart, DoorDash or Uber Eats.

The official bin is only required for trash; however, there are bins available for trash/paper, metal/glass/plastic, and for compost which are optional.

Owners of one- and two-family homes who receive the STAR property tax benefit are eligible for an NYC Trash Bin reimbursement from the NYC Department of Finance. If you purchase a bin from Home Depot or a delivery partner (DoorDash, Instacart, Uber Eats), you will need to apply for the reimbursement. If you are eligible and have already purchased a bin online through the manufacturer (Otto), the NYC Department of Finance will automatically send you a check.

Learn more about the Trash Bin Reimbursement Program by visiting <https://www.nyc.gov/site/finance/property/free-trash-bins.page>.

Learn more about containerization at [www.nyc.gov/usebins](https://www.nyc.gov/usebins).

### ***VOLUNTEER WITH NYC PARKS FOR TREES COUNT!***

Every ten years, NYC Parks takes stock of every public tree across the five boroughs. Just like the U.S. Census helps us understand people, this count helps NYC Parks understand and care for the trees that make our city livable, resilient, and beautiful. The latest Trees Count began in 2025 and is starting up again this month! Last year, 2,500+ volunteers helped count 46,000+ trees in 434 parks. But there are still plenty of trees left to count.

Consider joining an upcoming Trees Count event where you will receive the tools and training you need to help inventory trees across our city. Once you complete the training, you gain access to the official Trees Count app and can continue counting trees on your own or at Trees Count “Meet Ups” throughout the summer and fall. Tens of thousands of trees are waiting to be counted by someone just like you. Sign up to volunteer and meet your neighbors – human and arboreal! [www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count](https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count).

Volunteers will receive a tote bag with all the materials needed to count trees and then participate in a 30-minute training session that includes the basics of tree identification and how to measure and assess each tree.

Upcoming Trees Count includes the following:

#### **Trees Count at Prospect Park**

Date/Time: Thursday, May 21, 10 a.m.

Location: The Bandshell near Prospect Park W and 10th St

More info:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count/19498>

**Trees Count at Justice Gilbert Ramirez Park**

Date/Time: Saturday, May 23, 10 p.m.  
Location: McKibben St. and Bogart St., Brooklyn, NY

More info:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count/19286>

**Trees Count at Bath Beach Park**

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 26, 3 p.m.  
Location: Shore Pkwy. between Bay 14th St., Brooklyn

More info:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count/19423>

**Trees Count at Commodore Barry Park**

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 27, 11 a.m.  
Location: Nassau St., Park Ave., between Navy St. and N. Elliot Pl., Brooklyn

More info:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count/19507>

**Trees Count at Bowling Green Cottage**

Date/Time: Sunday, May 31, 1 p.m.  
Location: Parkside Ave., bet. Parade Pl. and Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn

More info:  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/trees-count/19290>

Contact [treescount@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:treescount@parks.nyc.gov) to sign up for any of the tree counts.

***BROOKLYN URBAN GARDENER  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM***

The Brooklyn Urban Gardener (BUG) certificate program is an annual multiple-session course that covers the basics in urban gardening and community greening. It connects the educational resources of Brooklyn Botanic Garden to the greening efforts of Brooklyn's communities.

Upon completing all coursework, graduates are certified as Brooklyn Botanic Garden BUG volunteers. Certified BUGs then continue to support greening projects at schools, senior centers, block associations, community gardens, and other organizations.

BUG students can expect an experiential, train-the-trainer program. Using a hands-on, participatory education model, the course includes instruction in sustainable horticultural practices suited to the urban environment, street tree stewardship, community engagement practices, effective teaching methods, and an overview of the greening resources available in Brooklyn. The training is free.

The application deadline is June 1, 2026. To apply, visit <https://www.bbg.org/community/bug>.

***YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
CONFERENCE***

Young people are affected by violence at disproportionate rates. But we have the power to make change in our community.

Join teens from across Brooklyn to learn about the cycle of violence and ways to interrupt it on Thursday, June 4, 2026 from 11AM to 4PM at Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Avenue) for a Violence Prevention Conference.

For more information, contact Kim Robinson at [robinsonlk@jrcny.org](mailto:robinsonlk@jrcny.org) or 332-228-4967.

***BE AWARE OF SCAMS***

The NYPD would like all residents to be mindful of ongoing scams. While we are sleeping, scammers are thinking of the next way to steal from you.

**Ghost Tapping:** With OMNI (tap to pay) as the way to pay your transportation fares on NYC subways and buses, it is imperative that everyone remembers to have an RFID blocker in their wallet

if your wallet does not have RFID blocker built in. The blocker prevents scammers from being able to charge your card without you knowing it. You can buy the blockers on Amazon.

**Jewelry Scam:** Crews of thieves have been reportedly stealing jewelry from elderly victims, often using children as a distraction. They may try to swap the victim's real jewelry with fake jewelry under the ruse of a gift, prayer or blessing. Or they may claim they need cash, offering fake jewelry in exchange. Try to keep your jewelry hidden when walking down the street. If you are approached by someone suspicious, report the incident even if no property was taken.

**EBT Card Scam:** Skimmer devices are being installed on point-of-sale terminals to capture data from credit, debit, and EBT cards. The information is used to create a cloned card to steal money from a real account. Inspect ATMs, point-of-sale terminals, and other card readers before using. Look for anything loose, crooked, damaged, or scratched. If you notice anything unusual, don't use the machine. If using a PIN, use your hand to cover the keypad as you enter the number. And always remember to monitor your account balances regularly to notice and identify fraudulent charges.

**Vehicle Sensor Theft:** Theft of vehicle radar sensors has emerged as a significant trend, where thieves target advanced driver-assistance system (ADAS) components for quick resale. These sensors, often located behind the front emblem or grille, control critical safety features like adaptive cruise control and collision avoidance. While thieves resell these parts for approximately \$100 to \$150, owners face replacement and recalibration costs ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,500. Park in well-lit areas and install anti-theft bolts, brackets, or covers to protect your vehicle.

### ***SMALL BUSINESS EXPO***

The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) is excited to host the NYC Small Business

Month Expo again this year to serve the needs of small business owners across all stages, industries, and boroughs. The expo will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 60 Pine located at 60 Pine Street, New York, NY 10016.

Small business owners of all stages, industries, and boroughs will be able to access free resources, consultations, workshops, and networking to help solve the 6 top challenges NYC small business owners face – all in one place!

#### **Schedule of events:**

- 8 - 9 AM: Networking with Industry Experts (Food & Beverage, Nightlife, Cannabis, Street Vendors)
- 9 a.m. - 4 PM: Resource Fair
- 9:30 - 10:15 AM: Opening Remarks
- 11:30 PM - 12:30 PM: Workshop: Using Social Media to Reach New Audiences  
Workshop: Funding Your Small Business
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM: Workshop: Winning Government Contracts  
Workshop: Starting Your Small Business
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM: Workshop: Maximizing Outdoor Dining  
Workshop: Funding Your Small Business
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM: Workshop: Leveraging AI for Your Small Business  
Workshop: Starting Your Small Business
- 4 - 5 PM: Panel: Getting Your Small Business Game-Ready: FIFA World Cup 26™

To register for the expo, visit <https://bit.ly/4dAiNho>.

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CHASE SMALL BUSINESS

In recognition of Small Business Awareness Month, Chase is hosting two hybrid small business workshops.

Power of Capital: May 20th | 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM
1000 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11225

Topics include:

- Thinking strategically about cash flow
- Does your business need to borrow?
- Why you're a good investment
- What financial data is important
- What are your credit options?
- SBA loan programs
- Begin building your own empire

Register at: <https://events.chase.com/300084629>

Virtual Option:
<https://jpmchase.zoom.us/my/shakima.f?omn=92703699228>

Navigating Cash Flow

May 21st | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
2100 Linden Blvd, Brooklyn, NY

Topics include:

- Cash flow basics
- Maximizing cash in
- Minimizing cash out
- Make cash work for you

Register at <https://events.chase.com/300084655>.

Virtual Option:
<https://jpmchase.zoom.us/my/shakima.f?omn=92703699228>.

BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE TOUR OF FORT GREENE

On May 16, 2026 from 11 AM to 12:30PM, and June 14, 2026 from Noon to 12:45PM, join the Fort Greene Park Conservancy for a Black History and Culture Tour. Meet at the corner of Washington Park and Dekalb Avenue (Fort Greene Park entrance).

Experience the Black History and Culture of Fort Greene Tour led by local historian, Suzanne

Spellen. Working with Spellen and our Tour Advisory Committee, we develop and refine the route and educational content to help retell Fort Greene's deep roots in Black history and culture for a personal, on-the-ground look at this important historical context.

For more information or to register, visit www.bit.ly/bhctgf26.

FIFTH ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

Community Board 2 is hosting their 5th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from Noon to 4PM at Fort Greene Park (corner of Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street). Elevate your mind, body, and soul!

Free blood pressure checks, prostate cancer screenings, hearing tests, on-site medical professions, panels on maternal health, Alzheimer's, arthritis, diabetes, and much more.

Free food and giveaways will be offered. The first 100 to RSVP will receive a free gift bag. Register at www.bit.ly/bkhealth26.

BLACK MAN'S HEALTH FESTIVAL

Heart, Body & Soul (HBS) aims to dismantle the stigma surrounding health among Black men in urban communities. Through four core areas of focus — Access, Awareness, Advocacy, and Action — they empower every Black man to be a well-informed and intentional advocate for his own health.

Join HBS on Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 10AM to 6PM for the 5th Anniversary of the Black Man's Health Festival at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue. Free massages, reiki, haircuts and loc retwists, screenings, giveaways, sound healing, and much more! For more information visit www.iamhbs.org.

PATHWAYS TO GOVERNMENT CAREERS

Join Bridge Street Development Corp on Thursday, May 28th and Friday, May 29th from 5:30PM to 8PM for “Pathways to New York City, New York State, and Federal Government Careers!” This civil service preparedness training for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 is designed to help launch a career in public service.

Attendees who complete at least one program successfully will be eligible to receive a stipend. Jobs you can prepare for include Sanitation, Court officers, FDNY, NYPD and Corrections, Traffic Enforcement, School Secretaries, Librarians, Bus/Train operators, Public Health Nurses, and much more.

Direct questions to Sidda Phillip at 718-399-0146, ext 219, email at sphillip@bsdcorp.org.

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## ***HISTORIC PHOTOS SCANNING DAY***

Do you have photos of historic Crown Heights? On June 6, 2026 from 10AM to 3PM, the Crown Heights North Association will be scanning historic photos of Crown Heights to help preserve the legacy and history of the neighborhood.

They are looking for photos and materials that tell the story of everyday life in Crown Heights before 2000. They are looking for interior and exterior house shots, restaurants, streetscapes, political rallies, parades, church and community events, old businesses, and anything else related to the community!

Come scan your photos and be part of the preservation of history at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. Johns Place.

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAM

NewComm is a network of live project teams where learning is put to work. Students in the free program don't study business; they run one. They

don't read about leadership; they practice it every week, in real time, with real stakes.

NewComm's motto is build upon the premise that the students who change their communities aren't the ones who left — they're the ones who came back with resources, networks, and authority. Students in the program are in from day one, no application, no GPA cutoff. Over four years the role grows with you — from observer to recruited team member to paid project leader. Real clients. Real budgets. Real compensation. That's what economic power looks like when it's built from the inside.

New York City high school students interested in learning more about NewComm or applying should visit <https://newcommproject.org/program>. You do not have to be a Freshman in order to sign up; the program accepts high school students in all years.

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## ***OCTAVIA PROJECT***

The Octavia Project uses the creative power of science fiction and community to envision new futures and greater possibilities for our world. They foster spaces of imagination and exploration for Brooklyn teens, blending creative writing, art, science, and technology to encourage critical thinking, build confidence, and develop skills in a myriad of subjects. This summer, the Octavia Project has two unique experiences for youth to enjoy!

The **Octavia Project Summer Camp** is a FREE summer camp based in Brooklyn for young women and trans, nonbinary, and/or gender non-conforming youth who will be in grades 6-8 next school year. Participants will create, explore, build, and have FUN in daily workshops that combine science, tech, art, and writing. They also go on field trips that explore art & STEM in NYC. Whether you like to write stories, draw comics, or game, the Octavia Project welcomes you!

The four-week Camp will run in July, four days a week, Monday – Thursday, from 8:30am-3pm and

will be held in-person in Clinton Hill. The rolling deadline is June 1st.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.octaviaproject.org/join-the-octavia-project-summer-camp/>.

The **Octavia Project Summer Institute** is a FREE summer camp based in Brooklyn for young women and trans, nonbinary, and/or gender non-conforming youth ages 14-19 to bridge their love of science fiction, creative writing, art, science, and technology! If you're looking for a creative community where you can explore new ideas through hands-on workshops, the Octavia Project is for you!

The five-week program will run from July 13 to Aug. 13, four days a week, Monday – Thursday, from 12-4pm in-person at Pratt Institute in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. The rolling deadline is June 15th.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.octaviaproject.org/join-the-octavia-project-summer-institute/>.

### **OLDER ADULTS HOME MODIFICATIONS PROGRAM**

Are you or a loved one in need of home modifications? The NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA) may be able to help low-income older adults remain safe and independent in their homes and communities. Through a home safety assessment by a licensed Occupational Therapist and no-cost home modifications, you can make your home safer, more accessible, and better suited to support aging in place comfortably and independently.

DFTA is offering:

- Grab bars and handrails
- Raised toilet seats and shower chairs
- Lever-handled doorknobs and faucets
- Non-slip flooring

- Furniture risers
- Improved lighting
- Temporary ramps
- Other accessibility and fall prevention

To be eligible, you must be 62 years or older; own or rent in NYC, and have a household income less than or equal to \$90k for an individual, or \$103k for a married couple.

Call 212-602-4455 or email [HomeMod@aging.nyc.gov](mailto:HomeMod@aging.nyc.gov) for application or additional information on program or eligibility.

### **ESTATE PLANNING**

You are invited to the Dubois Bunche Center at Medgar Evers College for an informative and engaging webinar, “Wealth, Protection, & Legacy: The Strategy of Insurance Planning.” This session will explore how different types of insurance products can be used as powerful tools for estate planning, business continuity, and building generational wealth. You’ll gain valuable insights into how insurance can help you protect your assets and achieve long-term financial goals.

The event will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 At 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Whether you are just beginning your financial planning journey or looking to strengthen your existing strategy, this webinar will provide practical knowledge to help you move forward with confidence.

To register, please visit <https://forms.gle/MqY6EC4xJ9rwrHqd6>.

### **GEORGE JACKSON ACADEMY**

If you are still exploring middle schools or rethinking your choice for your son, George Jackson Academy may be a strong fit.

GJA is an all-boys middle school where teaching is intentionally designed around how boys learn. Teachers channel energy into engagement, emphasize hands-on learning, and build strong organizational habits. With class sizes of 8 to 16 students, they can focus on both the curriculum and each individual student.

The GJA community is guided by four values, Courage, Integrity, Empathy, and Leadership, that guide daily interactions in and out of the classroom. These values are not a separate lesson, but are instilled in community service days, brotherhood circles, and other shared experiences.

George Jackson Academy (GJA) is NYC's only independent middle school (grades 6-8) for bright boys from all financial backgrounds. 100% of families receive financial aid and some families pay as little as \$50 per month. Applications are being accepted for Grades 6 and 7 for the 2026-2027 school year. Visit <https://mytads.com/a/georgejacksonacademy> to apply.

### ***NYCHA IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD***

NYCHA residents are invited to attend NYCHA in Your Neighborhood, a new series of forums hosted by the Mamdani administration and NYCHA which builds on NYCHA's commitment to resident engagement. These events will connect residents to in-person support from NYCHA for any individual housing issues and provide access to services from multiple City agencies.

At each event, NYCHA staff will host resource tables to provide residents with one-on-one assistance regarding apartment repairs, tenancy concerns, environmental issues, and more. Senior NYCHA representatives will also lead small group discussions on a variety of topics, including but not limited to heat, pests and waste, mold, lead, and public safety.

Representatives from multiple City agencies will also be available to connect residents to additional

services and support, including the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Youth and Community Development, and the Department for the Aging.

Brooklyn's session will be held on June 3, 2026 at Van Dyke Community Center, 392 Blake Avenue, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.). Requests for reasonable accommodations or language interpretation should be made by May 25, 2026, by emailing [accessibility@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:accessibility@nycha.nyc.gov) or calling 212-306-3335.

For additional dates and availability, and also to register, visit [on.nyc.gov/niyn-registration](https://on.nyc.gov/niyn-registration).

### ***BECOME A NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER***

A massive teacher shortage is about to hit the city. The NYC Public Schools Teacher Application is open now for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are a New York State-certified teacher or are on track to be certified by September 1, 2026, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. The sooner you apply, the better your chances are of landing your dream job, with access to customized job search support designed to match candidates with opportunities.

For help completing your application, refer to the application guide, join info session webinars, and visit the Support Center.

Did you complete an education program or receive teaching certification outside of New York State? Review this resource guide about the process for out-of-state candidates to receive NYS teacher certification.

To learn more or to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/4uIBvsV>.

## ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS***

### **Councilmember Chi Osse**

Councilmember Osse has the following announcement:

Last week, we celebrated the mothers of District 36 at Weeksville Heritage Center. It was a joyous occasion, and we're excited to share it with you in today's newsletter. We also want to provide a few updates from the NYC Department of Transportation:

NYC DOT plans to implement safety improvements on Rochester Avenue between Fulton Street and East New York Avenue. Rochester Ave has been identified as both a Vision Zero and Truck Priority Safety Corridor, and the proposed safety improvement project will seek to reduce speeding, improve pedestrian visibility, and shorten crossing distances. Keep an eye out in the next month or so from NYC DOT, as they will provide a construction timeline (our office will share it with you once we receive it). Forthcoming safety improvements for the corridor include:

- Installation of painted neckdowns at Rochester Avenue and Park Place, St. Marks Ave, Bergen St, Dean St, Prospect Place, and Fulton St.
- Addition of turn-calming at Fulton St and Rochester Ave.
- Installation of Neighborhood Loading Zones on Rochester Ave near St. John's Place, Dean St, and St. Marks Ave.
- Signal timing changes

The member believes these changes will bring much needed safety to the corridor.

### **Senator Zellnor Myrie**

Sign up for State Senator Zellnor Myrie's newsletter at <https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/zellnor-myrie/sign-senator-myries-community-updates>.

On Thursday, May 21, 2026 from Noon to 4PM, the Senator is pleased to sponsor a Community Resource Fair at Lenox Road Baptist Church located at 1356 Nostrand Avenue. Over 20 local, state, and community organizations, fresh produce, hot meals, and valuable information all in one place!

Affordable Housing services will be available in the office every Wednesday between 11AM 5PM at the office, located at 1077 Nostrand Avenue. Registration is not necessary, but those seeking services should arrive by 4PM to ensure they are seen.

### **Senator Jabari Brisport**

Senator Brisport would like to inform the community of the following:

2-K Admissions are being accepted in several Brooklyn neighborhoods, including two directly adjacent to CB8 in Brownsville and Ocean Hill. The application period runs from June 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 26th. The offer release will be issued on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Apply online at <https://myschools.nyc/en/>. Or apply over the phone via the Dept. of Education call center at 718-935-2009. You can also apply in-person at Family Welcome Centers.

All 2-K programs serve children with and without disabilities. Two-year-old children with disabilities may be referred to Early Intervention (Open external link) (EI) for an evaluation. If they are found eligible for EI services, they will receive an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan). <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/early-intervention.page>

The EI Transition Team at the Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE) may also provide assistance. You may contact the EI transition team inbox [EltoPreschool@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:EltoPreschool@schools.nyc.gov) or you may call the helpline at 646-389-7171.

Advancing Parent Leadership for Learning and Engagement (APPLE Summer Academy 2026)

APPLE Academy is a set of advocacy activities and trainings over 6 courses designed to increase the capacity of family, caregivers, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to become advocacy leaders and engage in civic activities.

Please take a moment to complete the survey here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/fDn0DdWHGQ>.

For questions, contact [mpc@sinergiany.org](mailto:mpc@sinergiany.org) or 646-597-7933 Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM.

### **Assemblyman Brian Cunningham**

The member would like to share the following:

Tenant Thursdays in partnership with Churches United for Fair Housing: every Thursday from 10AM to 5PM (by appointment only), receive free housing assistance and referrals for immigration, finance, and legal services at the district office located at 249 Empire Blvd. Call 718-771-3105 to schedule an appointment.

The Mobile legal Help Center will be partnering with the Assemblyman to provide free civil legal services to New Yorkers in need via the NYLAG mobile van. Private meeting rooms and technology inside the vehicle enable it to function as a full-service office. The van will be located outside of Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place from 10AM to 3 PM on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Caring Wednesdays occurs every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 10AM to 5PM at the office and provides services for seniors, caregivers, and people with disabilities. Get assistance with applying for benefits and insurance information as well as home and healthcare aid assistance.

In partnership with Guardian, a free pro bono attorney will be in the office on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 4PM to assist with legal matters pertaining to housing and immigration. You must make an appointment by calling 718-771-3105.

Appointments are recommended to ensure service. To schedule and appointment, visit <https://bit.ly/NYLAG26>.

### **Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman**

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman is pleased to announce the following:

Preparing for Emergencies on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street: With severe weather events becoming more frequent and extreme, it is more important than ever to prepare in advance for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and recourse to prepare for any type of possible event—manmade or natural. Each attendee will receive a free preparedness kit. Registration is required. To register, go to [www.prepare.ny.gov](http://www.prepare.ny.gov).

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CELEBRATE MUSIC WITH BRIC!

Wear your dancing shoes to Brower Park in Crown Heights for a BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Pop-Up presented in partnership with New York City Council Member Chi Ossé and Rooftop Films. Your DJs for the night are presented by Black House Radio, a platform deeply rooted in house music, bridging generations and acting as a guiding light for Black DJs and their sound.

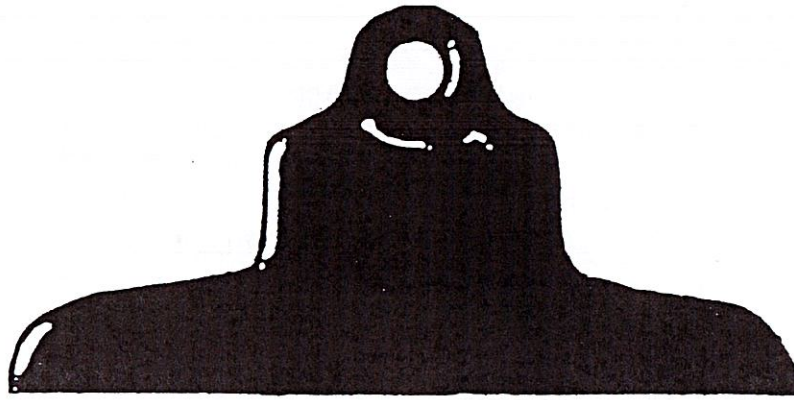
This event on July 25, 2026 is part of BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn!, New York City's longest-running, free, outdoor performing arts festival. It will feature music from Black House Radio.

View the entire summer lineup at <https://bricartsmedia.org/celebrate-brooklyn/>.

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### ***BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES***

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services offers 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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The next **78th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:30PM at the 78th Precinct located at 69 6th Avenue.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026 at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634.

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We extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Peter Krashes, who recently lost his mother.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Dian Duke, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Ms. Deborah Young, and Ms. Anika Roach, who will celebrate all celebrate a birthday in the month of May.

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The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 6PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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

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**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Zoie Moses, College Aide**

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