

# ACROSS THE BOARD

NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUME 44, NO. 9

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Ms. Sharon Wedderburn

is our third-longest tenured community board member appointed in 2000. We salute Ms. Wedderburn for her tireless efforts to serve her community for 23 years.

Ms. Wedderburn states, “I first learned of the Board in 2000 when I arrived home one day to discover that the direction of traffic on my street changed to the opposite direction and I knew nothing about it.” That incident sparked a seed for further community involvement that led to Ms. Wedderburn joining Community Board 8 after completing her term as the President of the Junior League of Brooklyn (JLB).

In her own words, Ms. Wedderburn acknowledges that she is very privileged to have been born and raised in Crown Heights and then had the chance to call Prospect Heights home for several decades. Both communities engender love because of their sense of neighborhood where you truly have the opportunity to know your neighbor and their concerns. She is proud to recognize her great mentors on the Board that included Meredith Staton and the late Priscilla Maddox.

Ms. Wedderburn’s mantra is that there is still so much that needs to be done. Being a member of the community board will change your outlook. You will no longer walk these Brooklyn streets as innocent. We salute Ms. Wedderburn for her tireless efforts to serve her community for over 20 years.

## District Manager’s Report

### FREE LEAF BAGS

Leaf bags are available for pickup at the Community Board 8 district office on regular business days from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We encourage you to pick up bags for your neighbors. Bags are available until supplies last.

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### Municipal Services Update

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 10/30/2023 through 11/05/2023.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2023         | 2022 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 7            | 11   | -36.4 |
| Rape           | 18           | 20   | -10.0 |
| Robbery        | 187          | 184  | 1.6   |
| Felony Assault | 357          | 316  | 13.0  |
| Burglary       | 156          | 157  | -0.6  |
| Grand Larceny  | 339          | 377  | -10.1 |
| GL Auto        | 145          | 113  | 28.3  |

The overall change year-to-date is **2.63**.

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The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the “scorecard” rating, was **83.8% for clean streets and 96.0% for sidewalks** for the month of October.

We continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation’s residential enforcement routing times of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please clean in front of your properties

and 18 inches into the gutter area of the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the District clean.



### ***CURBSIDE COMPOSTING***

Curbside composting, or organics collection, went into effect on October 2, 2023. Leaf and yard waste separation from trash is now mandatory and must be either neatly corded and bundled, or set out on recycling day in clear plastic or paper leaf bags only. Any other color bag can result in a summons. Leaf Bags are available at the CB8 office.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper separation is in place. Food items cannot be placed in bags or unlidded containers. If you have a brown bin, great! If you want to use your own bin, you may do so as long as it is 55 gallons or less and has a hinge lid and is properly labeled for compost/organics. You can mix your leaf and yard waste in your organics bin with your food scraps, but food scraps cannot go into a clear plastic bag with your leaf and yard waste.



### ***HEAT SEASON***

Heat season is in effect from now until May 31, 2024. The Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development has strict minimum heat guidelines that all landlords must follow. Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Residents are encouraged to report the lack of heat and hot water to HPD via 311 immediately.



### ***FIRE SAFETY TIPS***

It is that time of year again when the number of fires increase in homes across the city. As such, the FDNY offers the following top 7 important safety tips for you and your loved ones this season.

1. ***Never use an extension cord with large current appliances such as a space heater, air conditioner or refrigerator.*** Extension cords can cause home fires by overheating due to overloading the outlet. Always use a grounded outlet (wall outlet) when using such appliances.
2. ***Never smoke while lying down, especially if drowsy, medicated or have been drinking.*** Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding. Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.
3. ***Stay in the kitchen while cooking and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves.*** Unattended cooking accounts for thirty-three percent of home fires.
4. ***Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire in half.*** Install alarms on every floor and in bedrooms for extra protection. Seventy percent of fire deaths occur in homes with an inoperable smoke alarm or no smoke alarm present. The majority of the deaths are children and older adults.
5. ***Plan and practice a fire escape plan. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Get out and CLOSE THE DOOR. Call 911 from a safe location.*** Smoke and fire kills! You may have less than three minutes to get to safety.
6. ***Store matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children. Provide close continuous supervision of children.*** Toddler fire deaths are most often due to children playing with matches or utility lighters.

7. *Never leave burning candles unattended.* Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20 years of age.

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### ***NEW PARKING METER RATES***

All vehicle owners should be aware that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) has increased **parking meter rates citywide** for both passenger and commercial spaces starting in October. As of November 9, 2023, new rates will be in effect for the borough of Brooklyn. New rates for the Bronx go into effect on November 22, and new Staten Island rates will go into effect on November 28, 2023.

More information on the parking meter rate increases can be found at <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/motorist/parking-rates.shtml>.

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### ***HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)***

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

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### ***GRAND ARMY PLAZA ART ACTIVATION***

A new public art installation, Park of Dreams, will be installed at Grand Army Plaza beginning in late November or early December, and will be on view through spring 2024. The installation is a collaboration between ART FOR CHANGE and the Prospect Park Alliance, and will feature a curated selection of specially commissioned

contemporary artworks by local artists celebrating and supporting Brooklyn's beloved Prospect Park. The installation will be applied to the construction fencing surrounding the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch site.

Park of Dreams celebrates nature as eternal inspiration. Featuring artists Marcus Brutus, Kelly Beeman, Alyssa Klauer, Danielle Orchard, Cydne Coleby, Jules de Balincourt, Amy Lincoln, Bianca Nemelc, Jon Key, Kirsten Deirup, Na'ye Perez, and Maria Calandra, this public art exhibition presents diverse and unique visions of leisure and engagement that are offered to all Brooklynites through our beloved Prospect Park. All works are available to purchase as limited edition prints at [www.artforchange.com](http://www.artforchange.com).

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### ***FALL 2023 MTA CUSTOMERS COUNT SURVEY***

The MTA is conducting the Fall 2023 MTA Customers Count Survey, and your opinion counts! The survey will help the agency improve service for all valued customers. You can rate your satisfaction with up to two MTA services you use (Subway, Buses, Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North Railroad, or Access-A-Ride Services). This survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Upon completion of the survey, you can choose to be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 OMNY gift card for each of the services you rate.

Please complete this important survey by November 20th. You may do so by using the following link: [www.mta.info/survey](http://www.mta.info/survey).

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### ***SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES: COMMERCIAL LEASE ASSISTANCE***

The NYC Dept. of Small Business Services is pleased to announce that commercial lease assistance is available to small businesses in need. If your business needs help with a commercial lease issued in New York City, you may be eligible for free legal services. Assistance is

offered in signing a new commercial lease; amending, renewing, or terminating an existing commercial lease; and addressing a commercial lease-related issue.

To be eligible for free legal services, your business must meet the following criteria:

- Be a small business according to the US Small Business Services Administration
- Be located in New York City
- Not be a franchise establishment
- Meet the income eligibility requirements of the legal service provider

For more information, visit <https://nyc-business.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/commercial-lease-assistance-program>.

### ***AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES***

The lottery is open for Brooklyn's first all-electric building at 505 State Street in Downtown Brooklyn. The application deadline is Dec. 11. To see if you are eligible and to apply, visit Housing Connect.

The affordable housing lottery waiting list has reopened for 1 Boerum Place in Downtown Brooklyn. To get on the waitlist, you must apply by Dec. 4th. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/4174> to apply.

### ***ADULT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE: LOOK BACK PERIOD***

The Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Look Back Period closes November 23, 2023. There are a shocking number of adults who suffered from sexual violence and abuse but had not known enough about their rights, or were too traumatized to pursue them legally in a timely manner. In response, New York State passed the Adult Survivors Act which provides for a one year window to file suit regardless of when the assault

occurred. That one year window closes on November 23, 2023. Anyone who might be protected by this law is encouraged to look into their newly reinstated right to pursue a civil action for damages. Learn more at <https://www.safehorizon.org/adult-survivors-act> or call the Safe Horizon helpline Mon - Fri, 9am-5pm at 855-234-1042 for more information or to get support.

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

**Councilmember Crystal Hudson** of the 35th Council District, is pleased to share the following information with the community:

- On Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 10 a.m. until supplies last, free turkeys will be given out at Prospect Heights High School located at 883 Classon Avenue.
- Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (by appointment only), Churches United For Fair Housing (CHUFF) provides affordable housing services for constituents.
- Every Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. (by appointment only), legal help is available in the office.

For more information or to make an appointment for any of the services, contact the Councilmember's office at 718-260-9191.

**Councilmember Chi Osse** of the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District would like all constituents to know that if you need Hydra Barriers to protect your property from flooding, please visit their office located at 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 500 during operating hours to pick one up. Hydra Barriers can be beneficial during heavy rain events like the most recent storms that caused flash flooding and significant damage a few weeks ago. For more information, call 718-919-0740.

Additional services provided in the office include:

- Wellness Wednesday Food distribution continues from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Restoration Plaza.
- Housing Info with CUFFH Affordable Housing Services is held every Tuesday from Noon to 6 p.m.
- Turkeys will be given away on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. while supplies last after Wellness Wednesday at Restoration Plaza.

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**Senator Zellnor Myrie** of the 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District is pleased to announce the following:

The Annual Harvest Fest will take place on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Lincoln Road between Nostrand Avenue and New York Avenue. The event will include turkey and produce giveaways on a first-come first served basis. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to [barbin@nysenate.gov](mailto:barbin@nysenate.gov).

The office will be hosting an Older Adult Resource Fair on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lenox Road Baptist Church. Seniors will be able to meet directly with representatives from city, state, and federal agencies alongside community-based organizations to receive assistance on a wide array of issues including housing, immigration, healthcare, utilities, legal, technology support and education, and more.

Constituent services are available by phone, email, or appointment in the office. Churches United For Fair Housing (CHUFF) provides affordable housing services for constituents out of their office every Wednesday. You can call the office at 718-284-4700 or email the office at [myrie@nysenate.gov](mailto:myrie@nysenate.gov) to request assistance or schedule a housing assistance appointment.

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**Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon** of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District is pleased to have introduced a bill to fight climate change and eliminate state tax handouts to fossil fuel industries (Krueger

S3389/Simon A7949) - Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act. The Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act eliminates the tax handouts that prop up the most egregious parts of the fossil fuel industry. It pinpoints and eliminates the worst handouts to polluters: incentives that support research and development within the fossil fuel industry, the use of highly polluting airline fuel and commercial shipping "bunker" fuel, and the operation of fracked gas infrastructure, among many others. The bill does not touch the tax breaks that benefit low and mid income earners. In total, the bill raises \$330 million for the state by making polluters pay their fair share of taxes. This bill aligns our state spending with the climate goals to which NY has already committed, like the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) set ambitious targets for reducing emissions, which can only be reached by ending our reliance on fossil fuels.

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**Assemblyman Brian Cunningham** of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District is pleased to announce the following upcoming events:

- Turkey Bash will be held on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or while supplies last. Stop by his district office at 249 Empire Blvd to get a free turkey.
- Fall Coat Drive will run through November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lightly used coats, gloves, scarves, hats, and even socks are being accepted for all ages. Donations can be dropped to his district office located at 249 Empire Blvd.

For more information, call his office at 718-771-3105.

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**Assemblyman Robert Carroll** of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District is pleased to announce the following events:

- Constituent Service Hours at the Central Library on the second Tuesday of each month from 3-6 p.m.
- A metrocard van will be available on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Windsor Terrace Library located at 160 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

- A Rat Academy will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Grand Army Plaza Central Library from 5-7 p.m.

For more information, contact his office at 718-788-7221.

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**Congressman Dan Goldman** of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District would like to share the following information with the community:

Following the Hamas attack on Israel, Congressman Goldman urged the US State Department to use every resource necessary and available to bring Americans safely home from Israel, with his office directly involved in facilitating the safe return to the US of more than 80 constituents and their family members. He also led the call for Egypt to facilitate safe zones and humanitarian aid for Gaza. Congressman Goldman also joined Rep. Nadler in calling for the implementation of humanitarian pauses to ensure essential supplies, such as food, water, and medicine, are available to civilians in Gaza, and for civilians to have sufficient time to access secure areas.

Additionally, Congressman Goldman and Sen. Bennett (D-CO) introduced a bipartisan bill to create a Children's Immigration Court to handle the backlog of more than 62,000 pending unaccompanied children's cases in the US and strengthen due process rights for immigrant children who are too often left alone to navigate a judicial system they do not understand, frequently in a language they don't speak, and sometimes without a lawyer to represent them. In October, he joined Sen. Gillibrand, Rep. Espaillat, and other Democratic members of the New York Congressional Delegation in sending a letter urging that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services waive the \$410 filing fee for the Application for Employment Authorization for parolees - that is, immigrants who have lawfully come to the US via one of several humanitarian parole programs.

Congressman Goldman co-introduced the 'WIC For Kids Act' to increase access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program under the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. The WIC For Kids Act would simplify the enrollment process for WIC by automatically granting WIC eligibility for mothers and children who reside in a household in which a member participates in other assistance programs such as SNAP or Medicaid. Largely due to the current WIC enrollment process that requires multiple trips to a WIC clinic and often takes several days, only 50.2 percent of eligible Americans currently participate in the program. This low enrollment rate comes as nearly 15 percent of children currently live in a household experiencing food insecurity.

The Congressman and his staff are available to work for you and are proud to do so. Get in touch and stay in touch! For updates on Congressman Goldman's events and activities in Prospect Heights and elsewhere in New York's 10th Congressional District, please subscribe to their newsletter by signing up at <https://goldman.house.gov>. Their office is eager to assist you with a federal agency or issue. Go to <https://goldman.house.gov> or call the Brooklyn office at 718-312-7575 for assistance.

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### ***FREE MAMMOGRAMS***

Mammograms save lives. Mammogram buses are consistently offered and available in the borough throughout the year. The next mammogram bus in CB8 will be at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

There is no cost for the mammograms. Pre-Registration for mammograms is encouraged by calling 718-467-8800 x 10, 646-212-1477 or 1-877-628-9090. There is no out of pocket cost for this service. Eligible women should be those over the age of 40 and that have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months.

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## ***HPD OUTREACH HOUSING RESOURCES***

The NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights (LDDCH), invites you to visit the HPD Outreach Van in Crown Height to learn about HPD and housing-related issues.

The outreach van will be in front of the LDDCH office located at 252 Kingston Avenue (between Lincoln and St. John's Places) on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

They can help you prepare to apply for affordable housing; understand your rights and responsibilities as tenants or landlords; file a housing complaint; finance improvements and repairs; register your building; remedy a violation; and so much more.

Visit [www.nyc.gov/hpdoutreach](http://www.nyc.gov/hpdoutreach) for more information about HPD in your community. For additional information, contact LDDCH at 718-467-8800 ext.10.

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## ***MAYOR'S GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM***

The Mayor's Graduate Scholarship Program (MGSP) is an opportunity for full-time New York City government employees, with undergraduate degrees, to pursue advanced degrees at local colleges/universities. Participating schools offer scholarships in areas of business and public administration, policy analysis, law, engineering, nursing, public health, computer science, and other profession specific programs to eligible and qualified applicants.

For more information, a list of participating school, or to apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/mgsp](http://www.nyc.gov/mgsp).

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## ***SMART SCHOLARSHIP***

The Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-

Service Program is accepting applications until December 1, 2023.

SMART is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity for STEM students. SMART scholars receive full tuition, annual stipends, internships, and guaranteed civilian employment with the U.S. Department of Defense after graduation. SMART offers students the chance to pursue their passion in STEM while supporting the mission of the Department of Defense.

In 2023, SMART expanded program eligibility by introducing the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial SMART Scholarship. To learn more about the SMART Scholarship or to apply, visit <https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart>.

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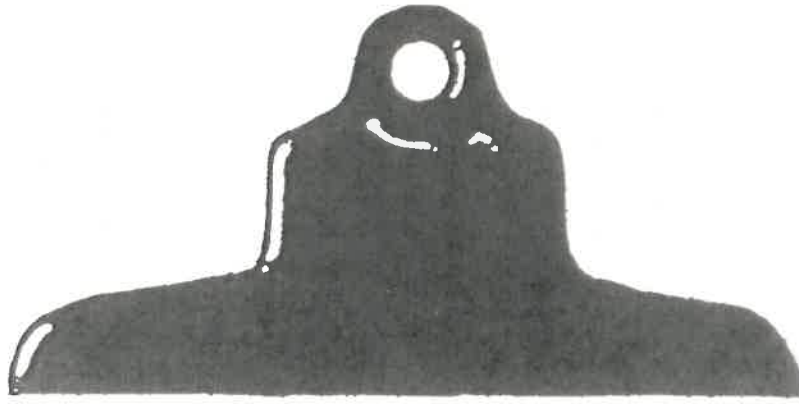
## ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

**1199 Employment Center** is hiring across multiple healthcare fields including nursing attendants, food service workers, home health aides, lab technicians, x-ray techs, and so much more. To apply, visit <https://ec-1199funds.icims.com/jobs>.

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**MTA NYC Transit** is hiring ambitious, team-oriented candidates to join the Evasion and Graffiti Lawlessness Eradication (EAGLE) Team to fulfill its core function of moving passengers by protecting the assets of the agency and providing a secure environment for all who work in, visit, or use the NYC Transit System. This role requires a four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent and two (2) years of full-time experience as an investigator, of which one year must have been as an investigator in the field. Military experience is preferred for this role.

This position offers an annual salary of \$55,898, a pension plan, a robust benefits package that includes (dental, medical, vision and prescription coverage), flexible spending accounts, paid vacation, holidays and leave programs, and more!



For more information or to apply, visit [www.careers.mta.org](http://www.careers.mta.org).



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Contact CAMBA to apply via phone at 718-226-0437 or via email at [sangitas@camba.org](mailto:sangitas@camba.org).



We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Lisa Atkinson, Ms. Julia Boyd, Ms. Andrea Ferris, Ms. Gail Muhammad, Ms. Julia Neale, Mr. Mark Thurton, and Ms. Lula Staton (who is turning the blessed age of 80!) who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of November.



The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00p.m. at The German School of Brooklyn, 760 Sterling Place (between Bedford and Rogers Avenues) Brooklyn NY. Please note that they are also on ZOOM, Meeting ID: 444 756 3970 with the PW: Unity2023!

The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm. For more information on the location, please reach out to Community Affairs at 718-636-6410.



The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, December 14, 2023** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) at 6:30 PM.



**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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