

ACROSS THE BOARD

OCTOBER 2016

VOLUME 38, NO. 8

A Message from the District Manager

FLU SEASON

CITI BIKE IS EXPANDING!

Citi Bike is expanding and your help is needed to help plan the system. Join Community Boards 8 and 9, Citi Bike, and DOT on **Wednesday, October 19, 2016 from 6-8 PM** at Hope City Empowerment Center located at 650 Washington Avenue (between Dean and Bergen Streets), Brooklyn for the **planning workshop**. For more information, call 646-892-1350.

Flu season is upon us once again. As last year's flu epidemic was one of the worst in years, this year's flu season is expected to be the same if not worse.

Everyone, especially seniors, are encouraged to get a flu shot. If you have an elderly relative, it is essential that you encourage them to get vaccinated against the flu.

HEAT SEASON

October 1, 2016 marked the first day of heat season in NYC. The Dept. of Housing, Preservation, and Development has strict minimum heat guidelines that all landlords must follow.

From now until May 31, 2017, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, 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 PM and 6:00 AM, if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Any landlord that fails to adhere to these guidelines should be reported to HPD via 311 immediately.

FORGIVING FINES: THE NEW YORK CITY AMNESTY PROGRAM

New York city is **reducing penalties and interest** for many violations issued by the Dept. of Sanitation, Dept. of Building, and other City agencies from now through December 12, 2016. To take advantage of this opportunity to reduce the amount you owe the city, visit www.nyc.gov/forgivingfines.

IS CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY THE RIGHT OPTION FOR YOU?

Upsolve is a Brooklyn-based nonprofit that helps low-income New Yorkers file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy for free.

Bankruptcy is a legal process that erases all of your medical and credit card debt. It also

erases any debt you have from civil judgements against you. If your wages are being garnished because you owe a creditor, bankruptcy could stop the garnishments. Please note that bankruptcy does not erase student loan debt and may or may not erase back taxes you owe. It also does not erase any alimony or child support that you owe.

If you have over \$10,000 in debt that you do not think you will ever be able to pay back and your credit score is less than 600, you are probably a good candidate for bankruptcy. Since your credit score is already low, bankruptcy is unlikely to have a significant effect on your ability to access credit and may even improve your ability to access credit.

Bankruptcy provides a fresh start and you won't have to worry about paying your creditors. It will also eliminate harassing phone calls you receive to pay your creditors. If you have the type of debt that can be erased, filing for bankruptcy will mean that money you earn will now go to your pocket rather than paying creditors.

If you have less than a 600 credit score and over \$10,000 in debt, your ability to access credit may improve after filing for bankruptcy. Creditors may be more willing to give you money because they know you don't have to pay anyone else back.

If you are thinking about bankruptcy, please visit www.Upsolve.org and fill out their online screening survey.

Here are the basic qualifications for Upsolve's service:

- Over \$10,000 in credit card or medical debts, or civil judgements
- Less than 600 credit score (or right around 600)
- Hasn't filed bankruptcy in the last 8 years
- Doesn't own a house or apartment

- Earns less than:
 - \$49,086 for a one-person household
 - \$62,451 for a two-person household
 - \$72,074 for a three-person household
 - \$88,747 for a four-person household
- Currently not operating a business
- Doesn't owe back rent on current house/apartment

For more information, visit www.upsolve.org or contact Rohon Pavuluri at 646-653-0918 or rohan@upsolve.org.

HOUSING RESOURCE EVENT

Join Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn for a free Housing Resource Event on **Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at Full Effect Gospel Ministries, 900 New Lots Avenue (between Berriman Street and Atkins Avenue), Brooklyn.

Come learn about home buying tips and info; loan modification and refinancing; resources for homeowners; home security; homeowner's insurance; home repair and maintenance; fire safety; and avoiding scams.

A free homebuying seminar will be held from 10:30 AM to Noon and a free seminar for homeowners will be held from Noon to 2 PM. City agencies and community based non-profits will be available to answer your questions.

To RSVP, call 718-469-4679 or email infoef_01@nhsnyc.org.

NORTH FLATBUSH BID FALL FEST

Join the North Flatbush Business Improvement District for its 30th Birthday

Party on **Saturdays October 15th and October 22nd from Noon to 4 PM** for a fun filled day! There will be face painting, photo booth, pumpkin decorating, mani bar, beauty demonstrations, live music, and healthy lifestyle activities. The event is free and open to the public and will be held at the triangle on Flatbush Avenue between 6th Avenue and St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, email the BID at info@northflatbushbid.nyc.

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***CAREER & HIGHER EDUCATION  
FAIR***

Assemblyman Walter Mosley is pleased to sponsor his **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Career and higher Education Fair (CHEF)**. What are your skills, passions, and goals? Bring copies of your resume, transcripts, essays, plus your best attitude and attire to the CHEF event on **Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at Ingersoll Community Center, 177 Myrtle Avenue (off of Flatbush Avenue), Brooklyn. For more information, contact the Assemblyman's office at 718-596-0100.

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***AGING IN THE COMMUNITY: HOW TO
PLAN AHEAD***

Aging in the Community: How to Plan Ahead, an overview of financial and health care advance directives, financing long term care, benefits, and asset protection will be held on **Monday, October 17, 2016 from 6-8 PM**. All members of the public are invited to this free informational lecture that will be held at the Brooklyn Bar Association, 3rd Floor Board Room, 123 Remsen Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

Reservations are recommended. For more information or to reserve a space, please

contact Avery Eli Okin, Esq., at 718-624-0675 or via email at aokin@brooklynbar.org.

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***A CALL TO VOLUNTEERS***

Want to become an agent of change for your community? **As a Legal Hand volunteer, you can help community members with the laws, rules, and forms that affect daily life.** Learn how to help your neighbors and gain experience navigating legal issues!

There is a **mandatory 2 day training session** held on **October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-8:30 PM** at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, Trustees Room, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ms. Marlies Talay at 718-619-4248 or via email at [talaym@legalhand.org](mailto:talaym@legalhand.org).

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PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN HALL

Join NYS Assemblymembers Walter Mosely and Diana Richardson, NYC Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, NYS Senator Jesse Hamilton, and NYS Committeeman Geoffrey Davis for a **Public Safety Town Hall meeting** on **Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM**. The town hall will be held at Medgar Evers College, Edison O. Jackson Building, 1638 Bedford Avenue, 3rd Floor Cafeteria. For more information contact Gigi Davis-Elliott at 718-596-0100.

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***SENIOR CINEMA***

Seniors 65 and older can enjoy free cinema and a complimentary popcorn and soda on

**Fridays, October 21<sup>st</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>** at 10 AM at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, enjoy *Hush....Hush, Sweet Charlotte* starring Bette Davis as an aging Southern belle still haunted by her husband's unsolved murder. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, enjoy *Double Indemnity* starring Fred MacMurra and Barbara Stanwick as lovers in Billy Wilder's noir classic. To reserve a ticket for either screening, please call 718-636-4122.

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**NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING
PROGRAM LAUNCH**

The New York Land Opportunity program, which LISC NYC is piloting in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development and Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, has launched!

This program will help mission-driven organizations with limited real estate experience learn how to develop affordable housing on their underutilized land through joint venture partnerships. Faith based organizations, social service nonprofits, and owners of HUD 202 senior housing might benefit from this program.

The first technical assistance workshop will be held on **Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 8:30 AM to Noon** at Brooklyn Academy of Music, Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. Light continental breakfast will be served. For further information, please contact Grace Chung at gchung@lisc.org.

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**COLLEGE/CAREER FAIR**

Hospitality Committee and Scholarship Fund of First Baptist Church of Crown Heights invite you to a **College and Career**

**Fair on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 11 AM to 4 PM** at 450 Eastern Parkway (corner of Rogers Avenue), Brooklyn. For more information, contact Michele Goudy-Manzo at 917-826-4123 or Joyce Culpepper at 917-346-8210.

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**PROGRAMS AT THE BROOKLYN
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

Moscow Ballet

Wednesdays, October 19th and November 2nd from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Join The Moscow Ballet and Olga the Ballerina at Brooklyn Children's Museum as she teaches your child a choreographed Russian Folk dance! Hear the Nutcracker Story and create Moscow Ballet inspired puppets. The program is included with museum admission and appropriate for children ages 3 and older.

Halloween at BCM 2016

Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 10:00am 5:00pm

Pumpkins, Bats, Webs & Spooky Costumes and more mark Halloween at BCM. Come dressed to impress as the Museum celebrates Halloween with its visitors. Join them for a spooky good time complete with Halloween-inspired activities that include decorating your own canvas trick-or-treating bag, learning about bats and spiders, and participating in costume contest! Take a photo in front of a festive backdrop to remember the day. Party is free with museum admission.

Totally Tots Studio

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 10:00am 12:00pm

Join a BCM Educator for an interactive reading of *The Ugly Pumpkin* followed by a

hands-on pumpkin inspired art project. Young artists will explore the icky, squishy innards of pumpkins and make their own art prints using pumpkins, paint, and other fall harvest vegetables.

Brooklyn Block Lab & Studio

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 10:00am 1:00pm
Ages 2.5+

BCM launches its 2016 programmatic theme of neighbors and neighborhoods. Visitors will explore the many facets of what it means to live with others and contribute to the communities they call home. In BCM's new 2nd floor Studio, which focuses on art and architecture, artist James Paulius' *Sky Village* installation invites visitors to use their building skills by creating communities in the sky with wood blocks and pegs. Early engineering skills are also honed in this space through open block play with large Imagination Playground blocks and table top sized Kapla Planks and Magnatiles.

Touch Tank

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 12:30pm 1:00pm
All ages
Meet and touch real, live sea creatures like starfish and sea urchins.

Creative Webs

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 1:00pm 2:00pm
All ages

Ever wonder how spiders weave their webs? Find out how in this hands-on workshop, then make your own spidey-inspired web using the technique of crayon resist.

Story Time with Juliet

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 1:30pm 2:00pm
and again from 3pm-3:30pm
All ages

Join BCM Educator Juliet for this interactive story time.

Sensory Room

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 2:00pm 4:45pm
All ages

In this inclusive space, children of all abilities can explore their senses. The Sensory Room is a welcoming environment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Trick or Treat Bag Making

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 2:00pm 4:00pm
Ages 4+

Silkscreen a canvas tote with a spooky design for all your Halloween trick or treating fun. Additional \$7 while supplies last.

Batty Wings and Witchy Hats Workshop

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 2:00pm 3:00pm
Ages 3+

Bats (and witches!) are amazing night-fliers! Read *The Teeny Tiny Witches*, learn some cool bat facts and create your own bat wings and witch hats out of everyday materials.

Halloween Costume Contest

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 3:00pm 4:00pm
All ages

Think you have the best costume? Model in this all-ages costume competition that promises fun, laughs, and prizes!

Pumpkin Prints

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 3:00pm 4:00pm
All ages

October is filled with pumpkins! Explore the icky squishy innards of pumpkins and make your own printed art using pumpkins, paint, and other fall harvest vegetables.

Live Animal Adventure

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 4:15pm 4:45pm
All ages

Meet a friendly monster in this storytime for all ages, then befriend a real, live animal from the Museum's living collection.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum is located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). For more information, call 718-735-4400.

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP

Catalyst Network Foundation Inc. presents a Resume Writing Workshop for all HS Students and Adults in Brooklyn. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 10 AM to Noon** at Benjamin Banneker Academy located at 77 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. RSVP at <http://cnf-nyc-resume-writing.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact Laurel Djoukeng at LDjoukeng@Catalyst-Network.org.

HALLOWEEN IN PROSPECT PARK!

Halloween in Prospect Park is a long-time tradition. This year, the event will be held **Saturday October 29 from 12-3pm**, on the Nethermead and Lookout Hill in Prospect Park. The signature Halloween Haunted Walk is now in its 36th year, and they've recently added a community fair that brings together local businesses and community organizations who put on family-friendly and Halloween-themed activities.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

City Employment Opportunities (with Exam Numbers)

- Correction Officer, Exam #7320
- Traffic Enforcement Agent, Exam #7305
- School Safety Agent, Exam #7304
- Special Officer, Exam #7316
- Special Officer (Health and Hospitals Corp), Exam #7317
- Environmental Police Officer, Exam #7301

For the above jobs, the testing period is through 10/31/16.

- Occupational Therapist (Dept. of Education, Exam #7008)
- Physical Therapist (Dept. of Education) Exam #7009
- Radio Repair Mechanic, Exam #7010
- Steam Fitter (CUNY), Exam #7034
- Steam Fitter (Health and Hospital Corp), Exam #7033
- Steam Fitter, Exam #7032

For the above jobs, the application period runs through 10/25/16.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/dcas.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through September 2016.

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	28	286
Non-Structural	11	179
Total Fires	39	465
Suspicious Fires	0	22
Non-Medical Emergencies	249	2320
Medical Emergencies	303	2616
Total Incidents	604	5569

We thank the individuals that are doing their part in keeping the District clean. Because of your efforts, the **scorecard rating for the month of September** was **95.6 for streets**—the highest rating since 2012—and **95.1 for sidewalks**. Your efforts are making the community cleaner and a better place to live.

As such, we urge everyone to adhere to the **Dept. of Sanitation’s residential enforcement routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 5 PM to 6 PM daily**. The front of your property should be swept and free of debris 18 inches into the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep our District clean.

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 10/03/16 through 10/09/16.

	Year-to-Date		
	2016	2015	%Chg
Murder	9	10	-10.3
Rape	19	17	11.8
Robbery	195	214	-8.9
Felony Assault	296	289	3.9
Burglary	144	196	-26.5
Grand Larceny	363	370	-1.9
Gr. Larceny Auto	64	84	-23.8

The overall change year-to-date is -7.3%.

The next **Crown Heights North Association** meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 6:45 PM** at St Gregory’s Church located at the corner of St Johns Place and Brooklyn Ave.

Discussion will be held on **Landlord/Tenant Rights and**

Responsibilities. Invited Speakers are: NYC Brooklyn Housing Court: **Honorable Cheryl Gonzale**, Supervising Judge, Housing Court, Kings County; NYC Department of Housing & Preservation Development (HPD) Representatives: **Ulysses Moulterie**, Supervising Attorney, Brooklyn Housing Litigation Unit and **David Montminy**, Senior Attorney.

The next **78th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 25, 2016** at 7 PM at the **78th Precinct** located at 65 6th Avenue.

The next **77th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, November 14, 2016** at 7 PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, November 10, 2016** at 7 PM at PS9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street).

A NOTE FROM MR. GREG TODD, MEMBER OF CB 8'S HOUSING/ULURP COMMITTEE

TAX LIEN REFORM MAY OFFER A SOLUTION TO CROWN HEIGHTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

On October 3, an article appeared in the Guardian, a respected British newspaper, written by Megan Carpentier. The title read: *“The last battle for Brooklyn, America's most unaffordable place to buy a home. It might be too late for Williamsburg, Bushwick and Bed-Stuy – but in Crown Heights, tenants have learned a few tricks to prevent the social cleansing of their*



neighbourhood. Can they succeed where the rest of Brooklyn failed?"

Because of historic redlining, banks would not lend in Crown Heights or Bedford-Stuyvesant for decades. Much of the housing stock was largely neglected for 40-50 years. Because of this neglect, many of apartments need extensive renovation to meet modern building codes or to just be nice places to live. Nothing will change unless we develop a process to protect distressed properties in our neighborhoods from unaffordable renovations.

Perhaps one answer lies in reforming the tax lien sales conducted by the Department of Finance. Since 1996, the City has relied on such sales to collect delinquent taxes. Under this program, the rights to collect delinquent taxes are sold in blocks to wealthy for-profit investors who are also allowed to collect penalties and interest from the owners of the property. Eventually these investors can use foreclosures to take ownership of the properties.

Now both Public Advocate Tish James and Comptroller Scott Stringer are promoting plans to remove certain properties from the tax lien sales. Under PA James' plan, which is the better of the two in my opinion, a special non-profit preservation trust would be created to collect taxes on properties that were deemed distressed. This new City-controlled non-profit group would have an affordable housing mission unlike the current system where the lien holders are for-profits. Her plan would also expand the

definition of distressed properties to include a wider range of properties.

Comptroller Stringer wants to revert to the older system used prior to 1996, where the City took title directly to properties with delinquent taxes.

Both plans at least offer a solution to a problem that has made Crown Heights a punching bag for housing critics world-wide. Mayor DeBlasio's response: "We have found that the lien sale program is an effective tool to collect delinquent municipal charges," said Mayoral Spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein, adding, "HPD removes distressed properties from the lien sale where it can use its affordable housing programs, and will continue to look at how all available tools can be used to create affordable housing."

ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

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