

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**OCTOBER 2019**

**VOLUME 41, NO. 8**

## *District Manager's Report*

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### *Great News!*

After decades of lobbying, a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Sterling Place and Kingston Avenue by January 2020.

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### *Bus Mounted Cameras*

MTA New York City Transit recently announced that the fines associated with bus lane violations captured using a new automated bus-mounted camera system will be subject to a new graduated fee structure starting at \$50 and going up to \$250 for repeat bus blockers.

NYC Transit is using an Automated Bus Lane Enforcement (ABLE) system on buses that travel on Select Bus Service (SBS) routes using a dedicated bus lane. ABLE camera systems can capture evidence such as license plate information, photos and videos, as well as location and timestamp information of vehicles obstructing bus lanes to document clear cases of bus lane violation. The system collects multiple pieces of evidence to ensure that vehicles making permitted turns from bus lanes are not ticketed. This information will be transmitted to the NYC Dept of Transportation for review and processing, and the program will be administered in

partnership with NYCDOT and the NYC Department of Finance.

While only on the M15 SBS route at the present time, the ABLE program will expand to the B44 SBS by the end of November. The proposed 2020-2024 Capital Plan includes \$85 million for further expansion of the program. As the goal of the program is designed to keep buses moving quicker as part of a revamped transit system, we urge drivers to use bus lanes as directed, which is only for turns. Let's keep our buses moving.

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### *School Speed Zone Camera Program*

In June 2019, Governor Cuomo signed into state law a provision allowing New York City to make extensive preparations for a dramatic expansion of the School Speed Zone Camera Program. School speed zone cameras are a proven technology that play a crucial role in Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative and have greatly contributed to the city's 33% reduction in traffic fatalities over the past five years. Since the city launched the program in 2014, speeding at locations with cameras decreased by more than 60% with over 80% of violators not receiving a second ticket.

On July 11th, a new law took effect expanding the maximum number of school speed zones from 140 to 750. To that end, the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) will be installing new cameras citywide at a rate of about 40 per month

through 2019, and 60 per month in 2020, expecting to reach the law's maximum 750 school speed zones by June 2020. Other major changes to the law include:

- **Doubling Speed Camera Hours:** Speed cameras will now operate year-round on weekdays between 6AM until 10PM, including summer and school vacations.
- **Extending Camera Zones:** The maximum distance of cameras from schools was expanded to a mile radius from a school. This change to the law allows cameras to be installed on a much larger number of streets near schools. In the coming months, new cameras will be installed on several high-crash corridors throughout the City.
- **Fines for speed-camera violations remain unchanged at \$50:** Fines will continue to be issued to those who exceed posted speed limits by more than 10 MPH.

For additional information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot).

### ***CENTERS HEALTH CARE***

Centers Health Care Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, which currently operates at a much smaller facility in Brooklyn will relocate to 170 Buffalo Avenue within the coming months. Hundreds of employment opportunities exist and we urge the community to apply.

Positions range from specialized: nurses (RN, LPN), Certified Nurses Assistants (CNAs) radiologists, physical therapists, etc., to standard support staff: clerical, administrative, dietary, maintenance, and custodial staff, etc. Most positions are unionized, and the facility is committed to paying livable wages with benefits. Please visit [www.centershealthcare.com](http://www.centershealthcare.com), and search for the Brooklyn Center to apply.

### ***GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEOWNERS***

Mayor de Blasio recently announced that the City of New York **will no longer issue violations to homeowners for sidewalk damage caused by City trees**. The City will also ramp up sidewalk repairs under the Trees & Sidewalks program to address 5,500 priority sites over the next three years.

The City will stop imposing liens on one, two and three family properties that have sidewalk damage caused solely by City trees. The Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and the Parks Department will still inspect for dangerous sidewalk conditions, but the City, not the homeowner, will be responsible for fixing them if they are exclusively tree related.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/request/submit?tab=trees-and-sidewalks>.

### ***HEAT SEASON***

October 1, 2019 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, 2020, 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.

### ***HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS***

The Department of Small Business Services (SBS) is uniquely positioned as a friend and

government navigator to entrepreneurs. SBS now has an online, one-stop portal that allows business owners to track licenses, permits, and violations in one place, and free compliance consultations are available to help avoid costly fines. City agency guides for starting and operating a business are now more transparent and accessible in multiple languages. To find out more, visit [www.nyc.gov/sbs](http://www.nyc.gov/sbs).

Additionally, the city is launching a new business initiative to boost black entrepreneurship. The new initiative will work with community leaders, local organizations and Black entrepreneurs to help grow more Black-owned businesses across the five boroughs. As SBS is preparing for the first programs to launch in early 2020, officials are encouraging Black entrepreneurs to share their input in an online survey. SBS plans to develop programs to empower black businesses based on the findings of the survey, which can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/black-entrepreneurs-nyc.page>.

This new initiative, which is intended to strengthen Black businesses in NYC, will provide opportunities for more Black-owned business owners to collaborate with each other, explore new initiatives and share best practices. Information on this program can also be found on SBS's website at [www.nyc.gov/sbs](http://www.nyc.gov/sbs).

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### ***FREE AFTERSCHOOL COMPASS PROGRAM***

The Fort Green Council, Inc., is offering open enrollment for a **free Afterschool Compass Program** Monday-Friday from 2 PM to 5:55 PM at Young Minds COMPASS, 972 Fulton Street (between Grand Avenue and St. James Place). Benefits of the program include a safe environment for participants, meals, STEM activities, enrichment and development, family engagement, and much more.

To enroll your child or to find out more information, visit [www.fortgreencouncil.org](http://www.fortgreencouncil.org).

### ***FREE SERVICES OFFERED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS***

**Assemblywoman Diana Richardson** in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn (NHS) is offering Tenant Support on **Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 2 PM**. NHS offers the following resources: landlord and tenant resources; anti-eviction assistance; senior housing; rent arrears and rent subsidies referrals; affordable housing; housing lottery education; and much more.

NHS Brooklyn offers a comprehensive array of services for homeowners, homebuyers, and tenants, including first-time homebuyer education, financial coaching, home repair assistance, home insurance counseling, landlord training, foreclosure intervention, and tenant support services. Most of these services are free to the public.

Labor Services are also being offered at the Assemblywoman's office on **Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Unemployment concerns, training, job seekers, and compliance appointments can be scheduled. Appointments are necessary.

CAMBA Homebase Outreach is available on **October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Available resources include anti-eviction legal assistance, housing related assistance, landlord and tenant resources, and assistance with voucher applications.

All services are held at Assemblywoman Richardson's office located at 330 Empire Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Brooklyn. Please call 718-771-3105 to schedule an appointment for free legal or tenant services, or to get additional information.

Also, please consider attending Assemblywoman Richardson's **Civic Minded meetings** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 2-4 PM at 400 Empire Blvd. Important community issues are discussed each month.

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**Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel** is pleased to offer a host of free services for constituents in her office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn.

**Free Immigration Services** are officered by appointment only and are free and confidential.

**Free batteries for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** are available Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM while supplies last. **Fall Back! Do not forget to test your alarms to make sure they are working.** Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives!

**The Healthy Families Initiative** in conjunction with the Campaign Against Hunger is assisting families in the 41<sup>st</sup> Council District SNAP re-certification, health insurance enrollment, rental assistance, employment assistance, and educational/vocational assistance. Services are offered every Tuesday from 10 AM to 2 PM. An appointment must be scheduled.

**Affordable Housing** services are available every Wednesday from Noon to 5 PM. Learn how to apply, receive step by step assistance preparing your application, and learn more about your rights as a tenant. Receive referrals to other resources such as immigration, public health, legal assistance, and wellness services via the Churches United For Fair Housing (CUFFH) Network. For more information, contact Anita Dos Santos at 347-574-1922.

For more information on any of the services or to schedule an appointment, call 718-953-3097.

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### ***IMPACCT BROOKLYN WORKSHOPS***

Fall into fall with IMPACCT Brooklyn's Small Business Workshop series, continuing through the first weekend of November. Also, affordable housing units are available at Athena Apartments, 114 newly constructed units in Prospect Heights and Clinton Hill! Applications are being accepted for AMI's of 60%, 80%, and 125% through

October 16th. To view a listing and download an application, visit <https://impacctbrooklyn.org/athena-apartments-affordable-housing/>.

Do you or someone you know need help with a landlord issue? Stop by IMPACCT at 1124 Fulton Street and talk to staff:

Wednesday, October 16, Noon - 5:00 PM  
Monday, October 21, Noon - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, October 23, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Monday, October 28, Noon - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, October 30, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Need legal advice? Free legal advice is offered on Thursday, October 17 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM by appointment only.

For both services, bring any documents you have that would help elucidate your situation. This can include letters, notices, rent invoices, a log of phone calls, photos, etc. Please call 347-482-0565 or email [Gina\\_Aracena@impacctbk.org](mailto:Gina_Aracena@impacctbk.org) if you have any questions.

Other events include:

**Small Business Workshop: Access to Capital, Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.** Topics include finance options at each stage of business; assessing your business financial health; 'what are lenders looking for?'; the impact credit history has on borrowing capacity; free resources and more!

**Small Business Workshop: Marketing Your Business, Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.** Topics include branding, advertising, campaigns, Targeted Marketing Strategies, Market Analysis & Tracking, and more!

Both workshops will be held at 1000 Dean Street, Suite 420, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

**FREE Personal Finance Workshop, Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> from**

**6:00 PM to 8:30 PM** at 226 Lefferts Place, basement, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

Poor credit or bad financial planning is a roadblock for many people. IMPACCT's experts can help you correct and maintain good credit so you can secure the housing or financial freedom you deserve. It is important to ensure that credit scores meet the standard qualifications for approval, and our workshop can be the first step in that direction.

To RSVP or obtain additional information on any of these events, please visit <https://impacctbrooklyn.org/events/>.

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### ***HEART SMARTS PROGRAM***

Weill Cornell Medicine and New York Presbyterian are offering **Heart Smarts training** beginning **Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at Noon** to assist with gaining new skills that will help reduce the risk for heart disease. The program will focus on healthy eating, increasing physical activity, weight loss, the effects of stress on the body, and better blood pressure control.

Training will be held at Friendship Baptist Church located at 92 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, If you would like to sign up or obtain additional information, please contact Sheila Davis at 718-771-7742.

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### ***FALL FEST***

Fall Fest is a fun way to highlight your business or community group and engage with the community. The North Flatbush Avenue BID is hosting **Fall Fest on Saturdays, October 19th and 26th, 2019 from Noon to 4 PM**, for a fun-filled event featuring interaction with the community and businesses along Flatbush Avenue. Come out, set up a table, and provide interactive, family-friendly programming that highlights your business or organization. Lectures, demonstrations, Arts-n-Crafts,

workshops, games, food samples are great examples of dynamic programming. Also available this year are:

- **Fitness Studios:** Your studio can be part of our NFBID Fall Fest Field Games Challenge! On 10/19, gather a team of 3-5 people (employees, students, members, etc) and compete against other NFBID Fitness Studios in a set of fun field games- think hula-hoop, egg/spoon, dizzy bat.
- **Restaurants:** Restaurants in our district can participate by taking part in our NFBID Food Showcase food sample tent. There are still 30 minute time slots available, Test a new dish, share an old favorite.

There is no vending allowed at Fall Fest which will take place on the triangular intersection of St. Marks between 6th Avenue and Flatbush Avenue, and 6th Avenue between Prospect Place and Flatbush Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic. To partner, participate, or for additional information, contact [info@northflatbushbid.nyc](mailto:info@northflatbushbid.nyc).

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### ***TOWN HALL MEETING***

Join Public Advocate Jumaane Williams for a Town Hall meeting featuring Census 2020 and the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes on **Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6 PM** at Brown Memorial Baptist Church located at 484 Washington Avenue (enter on Gates Avenue), Brooklyn. This program is sponsored by Brown Memorial. For more information, call 718-638-6121.

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### ***RENT REGULATION AND DECRIMINALIZATION TOWN HALL***

Assemblyman Walter Mosely, Senator Zellnor Myrie, Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke are pleased to host a Town Hall meeting on Rent Regulation and Decriminalization on **Wednesday, October 23, 2019** from 6-8 PM at Medgar Evers College,

Edison O. Jackson Auditorium located at 1639 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

For additional information or if you have any questions, please contact Assemblyman Mosley's office at 718-569-0100.

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### ***COMMUNITY APPRECIATION RECEPTION***

The Brooklyn Children's Museum invites all to their annual Community Appreciation Reception on **Thursday, October 24, 2019** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Mark's Avenue), Brooklyn.

All food served will be kosher. To RSVP, please email Margaret Walton at [mwalton@brooklynkids.org](mailto:mwalton@brooklynkids.org).

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### ***COLLEGE FAIR/CAREER DAY***

Hospitality Committee/Scholarship Fund of First Baptist Church of Crown Heights are pleased to present a College Fair/Career Day on **Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at 450 Easter Parkway, Brooklyn. Obtain information on admissions, tuition assistance, scholarships, financial aid, campus life, career opportunities, and health/life insurance. For more information, call 718-778-1200.

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### ***BIKE EQUITY FORUM***

Join Senator Zellnor Myrie, transportation experts, and members of the community to learn about the state of cycling in Central Brooklyn and how to fight to make biking safe and accessible to everyone in our community. The Bike Equity Forum will be held on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019 from 6-8 PM** at Brightpoint Health located at 803 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. RSVP at [www.bit.ly/zellnor-bike-equity](http://www.bit.ly/zellnor-bike-equity). For more information, call 718-284-4700.

### ***CREDIT WORKSHOP***

Legal Hand of Brooklyn is hosting a credit workshop on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019** at 4 PM at Legal Hand located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Attend to learn about loans, credit cards, identity theft, credit reports, and much more. All are welcome. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please call 718-619-4248.

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### ***"GRASS IS GREENER" FILM SHOWING***

Assemblyman Walter Mosley in conjunction with the Brooklyn Public Library Bedford Branch, are hosting "Grass is Greener," a film illustrating the history and criminalization of cannabis on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019** from 6-8 PM at the Bedford Library Branch located at 496 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn (between Jefferson Avenue and Fulton Street). Following the film, there will be a discussion on the current state of the law, the possibly legalization of cannabis, and what this could mean for the community.

For additional information or if you have any questions, please call 718-596-0100.

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### ***NYC WEEKEND WALKS***

The application period for NYC Weekend Walks is currently open. Weekend Walks are temporary pedestrian streets, free and open to the public, with a multi-block format (two to ten block on a commercial corridor) that are organized by BID's, merchant's associations, civic organizations, etc. The goal of the Weekend Walk is to engage local businesses and community-based organizations.

Weekend Walks are NOT street fairs with vendors, not held on residential streets, single day or single block events, events that require tickets or advanced registration, or that is a way to fundraise for charities. If you or your organization is interested in hosting a Weekend Walks, please apply at [www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks](http://www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks) by **November 1, 2019**.

## **CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE**

The U.S. House of Representatives has announced the launch of the annual "Congressional App Challenge" (CAC) designed to encourage all students nationwide to use their creativity to inspire new apps for a mobile, tablet, or computer devices in the Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academic Challenge. This contest is an ideal stepping stone for young coders and programmers, giving students the opportunity to showcase their amazing abilities and to compete to have their applications featured on the official CAC website.

Students must submit their app source code at <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/> before **Friday, November 1, 2019**. Included should be a YouTube/Vimeo video explaining the app itself and what they learned through this competition. The competition is open to all middle school and high school students that attend a public school in that district. All entries must be an original in concept, design and execution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Congresswoman Clarke's office at 718-237-2211.

## **LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANT**

The Citizens Committee for New York City has opened the Love Your Block Grant application. Do you have a neighborhood project in mind? The Love Your Block Grant offers up to \$1000 for a block clean-up or improvement project in your neighborhood, plus services and support from city agencies to bring your block project to life!

All NYC resident-led groups are welcomed to apply. Grant money can be used toward neighborhood quality of life improvements as well as services from city agencies including tree stewardship training, tree planting or removal, graffiti removal, bicycle rack installation, speed hump installation, and much more.

To apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/loveyourblock](http://www.nyc.gov/loveyourblock). The application deadline is **November 12, 2019**.

## **Municipal Services Update**

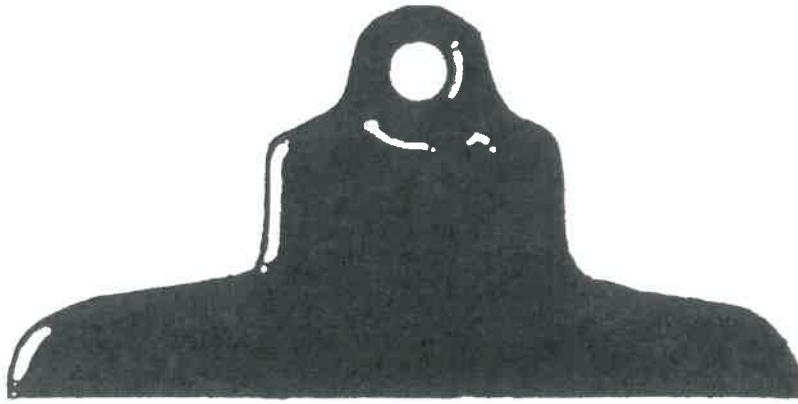
The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through September 2019.

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 27    | 225  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 7     | 105  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 34    | 330  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 1     | 12   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 251   | 2225 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 323   | 3111 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 626   | 5828 |

October 1<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of DSNY's "Snow Protocol" season. Section 83, the area bounded by Troy to Ralph Avenues, Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway, will have their refuse collected on either the 4 PM to midnight or midnight to 8 AM shift. As always, residents are advised to place trash curbside after 4 PM the night before for collection, as there are times garbage can be picked up prior to the evening shift.

Additionally, all equipment levels are back to normal at BK8, and consequently, residents outside of Section 83 should have seen a return to normal collection. If your garbage is not collected prior to 1 PM on collection day (unless you live in Section 83), please call the Community Board office prior to 2 PM so we can schedule pickup.

As always, we continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 6 PM to 7 PM 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.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/23/19 through 09/29/19.

	Year-to-Date		
	2019	2018	%Chg
Murder	9	1	800
Rape	12	28	-57.1
Robbery	138	124	11.1
Felony Assault	183	230	-20.4
Burglary	82	130	-36.9
Grand Larceny	266	294	-9.5
GL Auto	53	51	3.9

The overall change year-to-date is **-13.4%**.

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The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:30 PM** at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

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The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 7:30 PM** at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Mr. Yahya Raji**, who will celebrate a birthday in the month of **October**.

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We wish our heartfelt condolences to **Pastor Cecil Henry** of Calvary Community Church, on the loss of his wife, Minister Gerda Henry. Pastor Henry requests donations to be made to the Crown Heights Youth Initiative in lieu of flowers and plants. Donations can be made via [www.crownheightsyouthinitiative.org](http://www.crownheightsyouthinitiative.org).

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7 PM** at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn.

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

**Ethel Tyus, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**

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