

ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLUME 44, NO. 3

A Message from Chairperson, Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon

Greetings All! Welcome to the Fall and a New Season!

I hope that a great summer was had by all. As we start this new season, I look forward to working with you all to continue the work of service in our community. With adversity comes opportunities. Opportunities to share, learn and enhance our strengths, in service to the community, in which we live in and love! Grace and Peace!

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***District Manager's Report***

***Municipal Services Update***

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/05/2022 through 09/11/2022.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2022         | 2021 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 6            | 9    | -33.3 |
| Rape           | 15           | 18   | -16.7 |
| Robbery        | 151          | 95   | 58.9  |
| Felony Assault | 256          | 224  | 14.3  |
| Burglary       | 130          | 88   | 47.7  |
| Grand Larceny  | 299          | 187  | 59.9  |
| GL Auto        | 93           | 66   | 40.9  |

The overall change year-to-date is **40.9**.

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PARK PLACE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON-SITE MEETING

There will be an on-site meeting with Mr. Hadi Elhashash, Resident Engineer of the Park Place Reconstruction Project, to answer any questions and complaints regarding the SEK002386 Project. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM in front of 298 Park Place.

If you have any questions in advance of the meeting, please reach out to Ms. Shernell Pemberton, the Community Construction Liaison for the project with the NYC Department of Design and Construction at 646-908-2131 or 347-967-0496. You may also email Ms. Pemberton at ParkPlccl@Gmail.com.

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***PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IS BACK!***

Participatory Budgeting is back for the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Council Districts. Councilmembers Hudson and Osse will each set aside \$1 million in capital funding for community-selected projects on city property like schools, parks, and more. The time is now to start thinking about how you would spend \$1 million dollars in the community.

Councilmember Crystal Hudson's office can be reached at 718-260-9191, and Councilmember's Chi Osse's office can be reached at 718-919-0740.

**988: THE NEW SUICIDE CRISIS LIFELINE**

988 is the new three-digit dialing code connecting people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline) where compassionate, accessible care and support is available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress — whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.



**BROOKLYN CONGRESSIONAL CAREER FAIR**

On Saturday, September 17, 2022 join Congressmembers Yvette Clarke, Hakeem Jeffries, and Nydia Velazquez for the Brooklyn Congressional Career Fair. The event will be located at City College of Technology Gymnasium located at 300 Jay Street, Brooklyn. Bring copies of your resume and be prepared to interview. For more information, call Congresswoman Clarke’s office at 718-287-1142.



**BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY EVENT**

NYC Dept. of Education District 17 is pleased to present a community event for back-to-school on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Maggie Walker Campus Playground located at 1224 Park Place, Brooklyn (entrance on Sterling Place). Parents, educators, and students are all invited to receive free books and supplies for the start of the school year. For more information, call 718-221-4372.



**RESOURCE FAIR**

The Mayor’s Office is sponsoring a Resource Fair on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Plaza on Atlantic Terminal (between Flatbush Avenue and Ft. Green Place). Various City agencies as well as tenants of Atlantic Terminal will be on hand. For more information, contact Tony Herbert at 646-584-6867.



**MAMMOGRAM BUS**

Early detection of breast cancer saves lives! As such, the Mammogram Bus will be available on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM at PS 41 Francis White School located at 411 Thatford Avenue, Brooklyn, providing free mammograms.

All women, insured or uninsured, can receive a mammogram. If you have health insurance, your co-pay and deductible will be waived. If you do not have health insurance, you will still be provided a mammogram at no cost to you. Eligibility is simply that you are a NYC resident between the ages of 40 and 79 and have not had a mammogram in the last twelve months.

To schedule an appointment, call 646-238-8806 or 877-628-9090. Medical services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services.



**SICKLE CELL AWARENESS BLOOD DRIVE**

In honor of Sickle Cell Awareness, One Brooklyn Health Brookdale will host a community Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 from 11 AM to 5 PM at 1 Brookdale Plaza, Auditorium/Alumni Hall, Brooklyn. Free sickle cell trait testing will be provided for all blood donors.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD**

Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NAB) provide residents of low-income communities with an opportunity to help the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) identify funding priorities.

NABs serve Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs), which are low-income neighborhoods designated as needing community development support. NAB members are responsible for helping to identify the needs of their local communities. DYCD takes their findings into consideration when allocating federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding.

Each NDA is represented by a 7 to 12 member Board (NAB) with the authority to help identify community priorities and recommend specific programs. Six members may be selected by DYCD, and six members may be nominated by elected public officials. Members are currently needed for the NAB of District 8. To qualify for membership, you must be full-time residents of the NDA they represent; have lived in the neighborhood for a minimum of six months; be at least 16 years of age; and have no formal associations with any organization that receives DYCD funding under the CSBG program.

**On Thursday, September 29, 2022 from 6:30PM to 8:00 PM**, there will be a Public Hearing on Federal Funding for Community Social Services for Low – Income Individuals and Families in our neighborhood. The public hearing will be held in person at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place, Brooklyn.

Please complete the NAB Community Needs Assessment survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CNA\\_NYC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CNA_NYC). Any questions regarding the NAB or the

survey should be directed to [nab@dycd.nyc.gov](mailto:nab@dycd.nyc.gov).

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THE CERT TEAM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

New York City Community Emergency Response Team (NYC CERT) members are dedicated volunteers who undergo a training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control. The volunteer commitment is for at least one year of service following graduation.

NYC CERT members participate in community preparedness and support first responders during disaster response activities, including:

- Traffic and crowd control at the planned and unplanned events.
- Escorting New York City residents of evacuated buildings to retrieve personal belongings.
- Missing person searches.
- Staffing assistance centers and interpreting for New Yorkers affected by emergencies.
- Emergency food and supply distribution during power outages and water main breaks.
- Presenting Ready New York preparedness information to communities and build community disaster networks.

For more information or to sign up for the CERT team, visit <https://airtable.com/shru2htYHZUwkbK3W>.

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## **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

National Preparedness Month serves as a reminder to take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, learn, and worship. With all of the challenges New Yorkers have faced, the 2022 theme is "A Lasting Legacy: The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family."

Use the National Preparedness Month Messaging Toolkit to coordinate messaging for your community, house of worship or organization. Share the weekly themes, graphics, and links on your social media channels and with your contacts to spread the message of preparedness.

Leave a lasting legacy – prepare for emergencies today! Check out [www.NYC.gov/npm](http://www.NYC.gov/npm) for events, preparedness guides, and more.

The best way to ensure your lasting legacy is to prepare your family, and your community for emergencies.

Week 1: Make A Plan - Talk to your friends and family about how to communicate before, during and after emergencies. Utilize the Ready NY My Emergency Plan Guide: [www.NYC.gov/myemergencyplan](http://www.NYC.gov/myemergencyplan).

Week 2: Gather Supplies - Ensure your lasting legacy for yourself and your family by gathering emergency supplies that can help you whether you stay or go.

Week 3: Plan for Hazards - Prepare to protect yourself and your family by planning for hazards that may affect you and your community.

Prepare for Coastal Storms and Floods - Make sure you know your ZONE. Use the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder or call 311. Have the right Flood Insurance to protect your home. Visit [Floodhelpny.org](http://Floodhelpny.org) and [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) for more information about the National Flood Insurance Program.

Register for a free FloodHelpNY Flood Insurance Webinar on September 13, 2022 with Housing Counselors by visiting <https://floodhelpny.org/en/risk-rating>.

Week 4: Help Your Families and Neighbors Prepare - NYC Emergency Management's Community Preparedness program offers local community and faith-based networks and organizations the tools they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. For more information, visit [www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/training-resources.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/training-resources.page).

Teach and Talk to Children About Preparedness - Teach them about natural hazards like hurricanes, coastal storms and floods, and what to do when they occur. Prepare an emergency kit/Go Bag together. Make sure they know what to do at school if an emergency happens. Click here for more information.

Be Informed - Enroll for free for NotifyNYC, the City's official source for information about emergency alerts, and important city services.

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NYS OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT

The NYS Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) recently announced that Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) Licenses are now open, and that the period will close on **September 26, 2022**. Information for CAURD licenses as well as the application can be found at

https://www.businessexpress.ny.gov/app/answers/cms/a_id/3823/kw/caurd.

How are Community Boards involved in the process? At least 30 days or no more than two hundred seventy days before filing an application for an adult-use retail dispensary or on-site consumption license, an applicant must notify the municipality of the applicant's intent to apply for such license. For New York City, these notices will come to the local community board, much like on-premise liquor license applications.

Please continue to monitor the program's website at www.cannabis.ny.gov for updates. For additional information, please call OCM's hotline at 1-888-626-5151 or email info@ocm.ny.gov.

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### ***BROOKLYN BUSINESS CENTER***

The Brooklyn Business Center (BBC) has become a go-to source for helping aspiring entrepreneurs and managers of existing organizations and start-ups. The BBC is part of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (BSRC), a non-profit which is the first Community Development Corporation in the US. The BBC is funded in part by the New York State Entrepreneurial Assistance program and is an Entrepreneurial Assistance Center.

The BBC's services include 1-on-1 business coaching, access to capital, mentoring, business planning classes, assistance preparing MWBE applications and help writing business plans. We assist with locating third party resources such as pro bono legal services.

For more information and a complete list of services, visit <https://www.brooklynbusinesscenter.com/>.

### ***GROW BROOKLYN'S TAX PREP HUB***

IRS-Certified VITA/TCE Volunteer Preparers will provide free tax preparation to New York City residents in-person until October 15, 2022 at the Grow Brooklyn Tax Prep Hub located at 275 Flatbush Avenue Extension Brooklyn. Tax preparation will occur every Tuesday through Thursday from Noon to 5 PM and 6 to 8 PM and Saturday from Noon to 6 PM.

Contactless drop-off is available as well by appointment. Even though it is summer, you can still file your 2021 taxes if you have filed an extension. Additionally, they can assist you with federal tax corrections for this and prior years. Access the 2021 Child Tax Credit and stimulus checks, respond to IRS letters, and apply for or renew ITINs.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [www.growbrooklyn.org/freetaxes](http://www.growbrooklyn.org/freetaxes), email [freetaxes@growbrooklyn.org](mailto:freetaxes@growbrooklyn.org), or call 347-682-5606.

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NYC MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT WOMEN'S FUND FOR MEDIA, MUSIC, AND THEATER

The NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music and Theatre provides grants to encourage and support the creation of digital, film, music, television, and live or online theatre content that reflects the voices and perspectives of all who identify as women.

Now in its third cycle, the NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music and Theatre ("Women's Fund"), administered by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) in partnership with the City of New York Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), is part of a groundbreaking series of initiatives that

address the underrepresentation of women in film, music, television and theatre.

In 2021/22 cycle, the Women's Fund will distribute \$2.5M in funding to Media, Music and Theatre projects in NYC.

For more information and to determine if your project is fundable, visit <https://www.nomaanyc.org/opportunities/nyc-womens-fund-for-media-music-and-theatre/>.

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### **FINANCIAL HELP FOR CUSTOMERS**

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NYS Dept. of Public Service Commission has approved the Electric and Gas Bill Relief Program for income-eligible New Yorkers.

Residential customers who receive qualifying government assistance will receive a bill credit for any past-due balance for service through May 1, 2022. All customers are responsible for bills for service after May 1. To qualify for a bill credit, you must first be enrolled in Con Edison's Energy Affordability Program by December 31, 2022 or have received benefits under NYS's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) or the Home Energy Assistance Program-Regular Arrears Supplement (RAS).

If you are enrolled in Con Edison's Energy Affordability program or received ERAP or RAS benefits, your bill credit will be processed automatically, and you do not need to take any action. In addition, your service will not be suspended for non-payment while your bill credit is being processed.

You should be enrolled automatically if you received benefits from a qualifying government assistance program such as SNAP or SSI. If you are not enrolled in the Energy

Affordability Program, but qualify, you can sign up online through [www.coned.com/myaccount](http://www.coned.com/myaccount).

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IDCC CONNECT

Self-care is a crucial part of managing one's mental health, so all are encouraged to find the time to take a moment for mindfulness, rest, and relaxation. IDCC-Crown Heights is an info-driven organization that is here to assist and connect you to mental health services, physical health services, benefits, basic needs and support services, vocational assistance, and substance abuse treatment and support. They will help you find doctors and specialists in your area of need, accompany you to appointments, assist with medication management, and help you apply for any benefits.

Mental health treatment is offered in their offices via individual and group therapy and psychiatric evaluation. If you are a NYC resident with a diagnosis or are experiencing emotional health concerns and are over the age of 18, IDCC-Crown Heights can assist you free of charge.

Their office is located at 921 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn, and you can reach them 718-778-0485.

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### **CUNY FATHERHOOD ACADEMY**

The CUNY Fatherhood Academy at Kingsboro Community College is now accepting applications for the Fall 2022 free 16-week GED prep program. This free program assists young fathers in working towards their GED while working on their personal development. Fathers or expectant fathers ages 18-30 that are residents of New York City and willing to

comply with CUNY vaccine policies are eligible. Financial assistance of \$1,750 via stipends and incentives are available. Register now by calling 718-368-6784 or via email at [CUNYfatherhoodacademykcc@gmail.com](mailto:CUNYfatherhoodacademykcc@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.tinyurl.com/cunyfatherhoodsignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/cunyfatherhoodsignup).

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BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Join the Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) on **September 17, 2022** as they celebrate Myths and Magic, a collaboration with Camp Half-Blood to bring you a day of adventure that teaches children the power of self-confidence through roleplay and performance. The day that includes a magic show by celebrated magician Ben Nemzer, appearances from our live animals, magic-themed art projects in ColorLab, and more!

Space is limited so get your tickets today! **Please note: Camp Half-Blood's workshop is designed for children 6 years old and above and has a hard cap of 60 children allowed per session.** You must reserve tickets to Myths and Magic first before registering for the workshop. Your confirmation email to Myths and Magic will contain a link to the workshop registration page.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.brooklynkids.org/programs/myths-and-legends/>.

Join BCM on Thursday, September 22 as they host a special rooftop celebration welcoming Little Amal during her debut visit to the United States – and more specifically, her first time in Brooklyn! Little Amal is a 13-foot tall puppets who has traveled the world shining a light on international human rights.

The rooftop party will feature games, Double Dutch, henna, a DJ and food vendors. Families

are invited to take part in a community art project where participants will help to weave a huge web of yarn. Led by artist Natalia Nakazawa, this workshop will have children share stories about where they come from and their dreams of where they hope to go. **Little Amal will be at BCM from 3:30 pm–4:30 pm on Thursday, September 22, during Amazon Free Hours.**

The Brooklyn Book Festival is coming to BCM, presented in partnership with the Brooklyn Public Library! On September 27th during Amazon Free Hours, there will be a live storytime reading, a protest art-making workshop, book giveaways, and more! Participants will learn about age-appropriate antiracist practices, including celebrating and affirming different races and identities, talking about injustice in our society, and modeling ways young children can engage in activism.

Finally, after over a year of service and almost 50,000 doses of vaccinations, the vaccination site at BCM is now closed. Alternate locations can be found online at <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov>, or by calling 877-VAX-4NYC.

Thank you to the City of New York, the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, and all healthcare workers at our site over the past year for their partnership and hard work.

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### ***OUTDOOR SALSA***

On Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 4 to 8 PM, join Salsa Salsa Dance Studio for their popular outdoor Salsa nights on Vanderbilt Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street (in front of Beer Street).

You will learn the basics with a free class, and then practice your new moves to tunes spun by DJ Jun & Guest DJ's.

For more information and for other fun events on Vanderbilt Avenue, visit [www.vanderbiltavenue.org](http://www.vanderbiltavenue.org).

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CLEAN UP CROWN HEIGHTS

Clean Up Crown Heights is seeking volunteers to help clean up litter, aerate the soil, add compost, plant bulbs, and water the tree beds along Nostrand Avenue in Crown Heights North, from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway.

CUCH will be working on Nostrand Avenue on Sunday, September 18, 2022 from 11AM-5PM daily, with shifts beginning at 11AM, 1PM, and 3PM.

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering, registration is not necessary, and the volunteer check-in will be located on Nostrand Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place, outside of Key Food Urban Market 651 Nostrand Avenue.

Volunteers will spruce up the street tree beds from Prospect Place to Eastern Pkwy will be completed. In total, over 70 tree beds will be spruced.

If you have any questions or to sign up to volunteer, please email cleanupcrownheights@gmail.com.

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### ***MOBILE FOOD CONCESSIONS***

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso and select Community Boards of NYC Parks will be seeking requests for bids (RFB) for permits to operate mobile food concessions at various Parks citywide. In District 8, permits are available for Lincoln Terrace and St. John's Parks.

The RFB will provide for one (1) five-year term for each location. No longer terms will be considered. The concessions will be operated pursuant to separate Permits issued by Parks; no leaseholds or other proprietary rights will be offered.

Please direct any questions or comments you may have regarding development of the scope of this RFB to Kat Cognata, Project Manager, by phone at (212) 360-3407 or via email at [katherine.cognata@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:katherine.cognata@parks.nyc.gov). **These comments must be made by October 14, 2022, to ensure consideration.**

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HURRICANE IDA SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM

NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations has extended the deadline to apply for recovery funds in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida that slammed New York City with flash floods on August 26, 2021. The new deadline is **October 3, 2022**.

If you own a one-to-four family home that was uninhabitable because of damage from Ida, applied for FEMA or were not eligible for FEMA assistance because you are a landlord, and have either been denied or received less than the amount needed to complete necessary repairs to make your home habitable, then you may be eligible for up to \$72,000 to cover the cost of repairs and mitigate against future damage.

For more information, visit https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/resources/ida_page, call 212-615-8329, or email IdaAssist@recovery.nyc.gov.

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## ***BLACK HOMEOWNERSHIP PROJECT***

The Black Homeownership Project (BHP) was born from the need to identify systematic barriers to Black homeownership in New York City while developing actionable strategies to support Black families in our communities.

Black homeownership has significantly declined in New York City since the 2008 financial crisis, and continues to worsen due to the coronavirus pandemic. BHP is deeply rooted in a community approach, through listening, learning, and bridging the knowledge gap between the needs of homeowners and landlords, their public-sector advocates (including non-profits partners), and policy leaders at the local, state, and federal level.

BHP has developed five pilot program ideas to improve Black homeownership in New York City at a systems level. The pilots are Down payment Assistance Navigator; Savings Accelerator; Generation 2 Generation Estate Planning; Homeowner Landlord Services; and Pathways to Tenant Purchase.

The BHP project can only be successful with input and expertise from the community organizations, agencies, community boards, homeowners, and residents of New York City. Please join them in having a conversation about the Black Homeownership Project and how we can work in partnership to support our communities. By visiting <https://bhp.nycn.org>.

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MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS KEEPER YOUTH COUNCIL

The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) in collaboration with the Young Men's Initiative (YMI) and ENTERTAINERS FOR EDUCATION ALLIANCE, INC - I WILL GRADUATE (E4EA-IWG) is looking

to create a platform for young people throughout NYC that amplifies Youth-Voice and Youth-Choice. This council will be the galvanizing body that connects and mobilizes youth councils across the city.

The range of youth council of youth collectives who participate may include neighborhood-based youth councils youth groups and youth boards affiliated with all DYCD youth-serving program areas serving ages 16 -24. Research demonstrates that service-learning programs can help develop critical thinking, personal responsibility, positive attitudes toward school, and increased civic engagement. Furthermore, engaging youth in social change can have benefits to both the youth and their communities. Studies have shown that engaging youth in programs that address community issues, allows youth to begin to see themselves differently and develop feelings of connectedness and social responsibility

Mission: Provide a platform for youth to feel empowered and affect change within their communities.

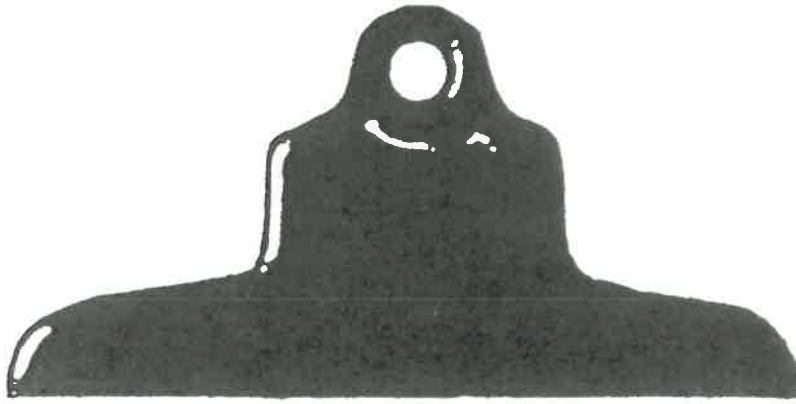
Program goals include developing leadership skills; initiating community benefit projects; conducting a citywide Youth Summit, a one-day conference led by the MBSK and involving all youth and adults; learning to use you voice, art, creativity, and leadership with a purpose.

Applications are being accepted for new candidates. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.iwillgraduateprogram.com/mbskyc>.

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## ***IMPACCT BROOKLYN***

Learn how to save money with IMPACCT Brooklyn's help. Join the hundreds of people who have turned their lives around with



IMPACCT Brooklyn's FREE Financial Capabilities workshop!

This course is specifically designed to create change in your life, regardless of your economic status. Topics include:

September 14, 2022 - Understanding Credit  
September 21, 2022 - Learn How To Increase Your Wealth  
September 28, 2022 - Understanding Housing Connect and the Lottery Process

Workshops are virtual Wednesday's 6:30pm-8:00pm. Register today at <https://impacctbrooklyn.org/#>.

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JAZZ VESPERS

Join Emmanuel Baptist Church on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 3 PM for the 10th Jazz Vespers Season Opener. The Eddie Allen Aggregation a 17-piece ensemble, will perform. Emmanuel Baptist Church is located at 279 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn.

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We wish the **happiest of birthdays** to CB8 members **Mr. Desmond Atkins, Ms. Tamika Gibbs, and Ms. Regina Kinsey**, all of whom will celebrate birthdays in the month of September.

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We wish a **speedy recovery** to CB8 members, **Mr. Meredith Staton and Ms. Vilma Zuniga**.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 13, 2022, time and location to be determined**.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson
Michelle George, District Manager/Editor
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

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