

ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 44, NO. 7

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!

Thank you always for the giving of your time, talents and treasures to this great community.

Grace and Peace! Unity in Community...You Cannot Have Community Without Unity!

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## ***New Community Board 8 Members***

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

- Benny Faygen
- Bria Thomas

May your membership on the board be fruitful and rewarding.

## **COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!**



**Mr. Meredith Staton**

is our longest serving community board member. He has been participating on Community Board 8 since the inception of Community Boards in the 1970's.

Mr. Staton states that "I remain a member of the board because community organizing and participation is never complete. I may be older in years and my hearing may be going, but my mind is as sharp as ever to allow me to continue to learn and view applications and issues coming before the Board. While my main interests are housing and transportation issues, I recognize that these two issues do not exist in a vacuum, and also that they affect other community issues such as health and well-being. I have always been interested in how housing matters impact others because while I was fortunate to purchase my home in Crown Heights in 1963, most others are not and I see how the housing affordability crisis affects and impacts my fellow seniors, those struggling despite so-called good paying jobs and others living on fixed incomes. I believe I bring to the board common sense and a fight that is beyond my own personal issues. I recognize that what affects me one way affects others differently and I am capable of looking

at the bigger picture and listening to other views”.

Mr. Staton is a retired Army Veteran, Letter Carrier with the United States Postal Service, and Captain of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Auxiliary.

We salute Mr. Staton for tireless efforts to serve his community for over 40 years. We also thank his wife, Lula Staton, and family for loaning Mr. Staton to us for all these years.

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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 09/04/2023 through 09/10/2023.

	Year-to-Date		
	2023	2022	%Chg
Murder	5	6	-44.4
Rape	12	14	-14.3
Robbery	142	150	-5.3
Felony Assault	286	260	10.0
Burglary	119	131	-9.2
Grand Larceny	272	300	-9.3
GL Auto	125	93	34.4

The overall change year-to-date is **0.73**.

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The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the “scorecard” rating, was **85 for clean streets and 92.2% for sidewalks** for the month of August.

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.

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CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

Starting **October 2, 2023**, Curbside Composting will be available to ALL Brooklyn residents! Compost will be picked up on your recycling day. DSNY has a limited number of free brown compost collection bins available for residential properties, and Brooklyn residents can now order a Brown Bin through October 13, 2023. To see if you are eligible to order one, complete the form at <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/contact/curbside-composting>.

DSNY will pick up ALL leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper. This includes meat, bones, dairy, prepared foods, and greasy uncoated paper plates and pizza boxes.

Do not compost trash such as diapers, personal hygiene products, animal waste, wrappers, non-paper packaging, and foam products. Also, do not compost recyclable materials.

NOTE: Bulk material should be set out on any collection day that is NOT your compost/recycling day.

You can set out your leaf and yard waste and compost waste in any labeled bin (55 gallons or less) with a secure lid or in your DSNY brown bin, paper lawn and leaf bag, or clear plastic bag. Bundle twigs and branches with twine and place on curb next to bins or bags.

For food scraps and food-soiled paper, make sure to line your bin with a bag to keep it clean, tie the bag closed before putting the bin out for collection, and write your address on your bin.

Do not place bags of food waste directly on the curb. You can mix food scraps with leaf and yard waste only when using a bin with a secure lid.

Owners of buildings with 4+ units must provide a storage area and clearly labeled bins for the collection of yard waste.

For more information and detailed instructions, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scraps-and-yard-waste-page/brooklyn-composting>.

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### ***PROTECTING OUR SENIORS: SERVICES EXPO EVENT***

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is pleased to announce to the community that she is hosting a Senior Services Expo, and in-person event that will focus on providing an array of senior-driven services/resources for the 9th Congressional District. Approximately 25-30 senior-oriented vendors are scheduled to appear at the event to be held on Friday, **September 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at Major Owens "Main Gym" 1561 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

As a community, it is our duty to share the responsibility to help seniors maximize their golden years by staying happy and healthy. Protecting Our Seniors Services Expo will do just that by providing relevant information, resources, contacts, and tactics for the seniors of the 9th District. For more information, contact Congresswoman Clarke's office at 718-287-1142.

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NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERT CARROLL

Assemblyman Robert Carroll is pleased to announce the following events:

- Town Hall and Government Agency Answer Fair on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023** from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Central Library by Grand Army Plaza. No RSVP required, there will be time to speak to AM Carroll and representatives from a variety of Government Agencies
- Constituent Service Hours at the Central Library on the second Tuesday of each month from 3-6PM

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

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### ***GED CLASSES IN BROOKLYN***

NYC Dept. of Education offers free high school equivalency diplomas (GED) classes to adults 21 years and older at various schools throughout the borough of Brooklyn. If not having a high school diploma or equivalent is preventing you from gaining quality employment, now is the time to act.

Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:40PM to 9 PM. The nearest school to CB8 is MS 61, the Gladstone Atwell School located at 400 Empire Blvd. Additional classes are held at PS398 located at 60 E. 94<sup>th</sup> Street; Bushwick High School located at 400 Irving Avenue; MS 2 Parkside Academy located at 655 Parkside Avenue; Kappa V Middle School located at 985 Rockaway Avenue; and Workforce Development Center located at 790 Broadway.

Classes are underway now! Call 929-305-3769 or text 917-612-7831 for more information.

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ESOL CLASSES AT THE YWCA

The YWCA is excited to announce that they have expanded their educational offerings and are now offering ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes at The YWCA of Brooklyn.

Recognizing the growing need for English language skills in today's diverse and interconnected world, they have designed their ESOL classes to provide a supportive and engaging learning environment for individuals who wish to strengthen their English language proficiency.

Their ESOL classes cater to learners of all levels, from beginners to advanced speakers. Whether you are looking to improve your conversational skills, enhance your reading and writing abilities, or prepare for a specific language proficiency test, experienced instructors will guide you every step of the way.

Some key highlights of their ESOL classes include a comprehensive curriculum taught by experienced instructors for extremely low cost or free. Classes are offered 4 days and 1 night each week with both classroom and in-field learning. Students learn and grow at their own pace.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining ESOL classes, please do not hesitate to contact the YWCA at 718-875-1190 ext. 233 or by email at esol@ywcabklyn.org. Classes are held at the YWCA, 30 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn.

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## **NYC PARKS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

NYC Parks is investing in the future and need your help. Volunteers help with forest and wetland restoration, planting and pruning street trees, harvesting and propagating native seed and monitoring local wildlife. By

becoming a steward of NYC's green spaces, you can help ensure that our city's natural resources are kept safe for future generations.

NYC Parks hosts volunteers throughout the city all year long, in every landscape and every kind of weather. There are several ways to get involved.

Attend a volunteer event. Public events bring together New Yorkers from every walk of life to get their hands dirty making the city better. This is a great way to find out more about the wide variety of nature in the city, learn skills, and meet like-minded individuals.

Request a project for your group. Parks always has a running list of projects that could use a helping hand. Groups can make a vital and significant impact on the ongoing restoration and management of nature in the city. Nature-based projects are great opportunities for team-building, enjoying the unique landscapes of the city, and starting conversations, while making a real difference.

Become a Super Steward! Super Stewards work independently to make an impact on their neighborhoods. NYC Parks staff provide training, access to tools and other resources, and license individuals to work on their own, as well as to recruit and train their friends and neighbors.

The Stewardship Program is hosting a Crown Heights Street Tree Care event on Sterling Place and Troy Avenue on **Friday, September 22, 2023 from 9 AM to Noon**. For more information on the stewardship program or to register for an upcoming event, visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/stewardship> or email [stewardship@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:stewardship@parks.nyc.gov).

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YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ART CONTEST

The New York City Civic Engagement Commission (NYCCEC) Outreach is hosting their first "Youth Who Triumph Through Civic Engagement Art Contest"! They are looking for contestants who can express through art what community involvement looks like and how being civically engaged empowered their success. Eligible entrants must fall into at least one of the following categories: history of foster care; resident of NYCHA/Public housing; Justice Involved/impacted; a student in District 79 - NYC's alternative schools/programs; lives in transitional housing/shelter; receive public assistance.

Youth participants must submit an original artwork of any size, using only paint, chalk, color pencils, clay, and/or and spray paint. In addition to their artwork, participants must submit an art narrative between 250 and 500 words that answers the following questions: **What does community mean to you? and What ways are you involved with your community?**

Two winners from each borough will be selected, one from ages 13 to 17, and one from ages 18 to 23. Each winner will participate in an awards reception, receive \$250, and have their artwork displayed at the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

The deadline for entry is **Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 11:59pm**. [Click here to fill out an application to enter the art contest](#). (To access the link in this pdf, hover the mouse over the sentence, then press the control key and click the sentence. It will bring you to the link.)

For further information please contact Barbara Williams via email at bawilliams@civicengagement.nyc.gov.

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## ***RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS***

Health Research, Inc. (HRI) and the New York State Department of Health (Department), Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control, is seeking applications (RFA) from organizations to implement community programs to increase colorectal cancer screening, decrease colorectal cancer cases and deaths, and improve health equity in colorectal cancer screening. Priority populations for these activities are individuals who are 45-75 years old and who are Black, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQ+, and/or reside in rural communities, and not up to date with colorectal cancer screening.

Funded organizations must be able to do the following:

- conduct community outreach and deliver education about colorectal cancer risk, prevention, and screening options
- connect persons to community services to address barriers to colorectal cancer screening
- refer persons to culturally competent health care services for colorectal cancer screening

Applicants are not required to have experience or knowledge of cancer screening or prevention. The Department will provide awardees with training, technical assistance, and resources.

HRI/the Department anticipates awarding twelve (12) contracts, for four years and six months (4.5 years), with an expected term of January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2028. Each contract will be valued at \$50,000 for the first four, 12-months periods and \$25,000 for the fifth, six-month period, for a 4.5-year total of \$225,000 for each of the 12 awards.

This Request for Funding Announcement (RFA) is posted on HRI's public website at: [RFA #CCH-2023-04 Community Outreach to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening - Health Research, Inc.](#) (To access the link, press control and click the link)

Applications will be accepted until November 14, 2023, at 4:00pm. Applicants will first need to register and Apply with an email address. After registering, applicants can complete the online Apply application. The link to the application is here: [https://nyscancerprevention.smapply.io/prog/community outreach to promote colorectal cancer screening/](https://nyscancerprevention.smapply.io/prog/community%20outreach%20to%20promote%20colorectal%20cancer%20screening/).

An Applicant conference is being held on October 4, 2023. You must register no later than October 3, 2023 at 5:00 pm via this link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-CorDkpHN1AIBDx4jlTeHrjfh7ONHDZ](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81254612345)

Potential Applicants must submit questions about the RFA in writing to: [canserv@health.ny.gov](mailto:canserv@health.ny.gov) by October 17, 2023. Questions and answers will be posted and distributed on or about October 24, 2023.

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LEVEL UP WITH BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Want to take your career to the next stage? It's time to LevelUP!

LevelUP is a workforce advancement program designed to help Black women get to the next stage professionally and build wealth. The program will provide instruction, mentoring and financial coaching to give Black women the opportunity to pivot and advance their careers in industries where they have a low percentage of employment.

LevelUP will launch three 10-week cycles focused on these key industries: Real Estate, Finance, and Technology. Each cycle will offer an in-depth look at one key industry and its various sectors, in addition to insider knowledge on how to break into that industry.

In a time when Black women make less in the labor market and face job-related economic disadvantages driven by systematic and individual discrimination, LevelUP is determined to support those with transferable skills and professional experience to find their place in this economy—and we think it is time to make a change!

To learn more, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/business/levelup>.

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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/>.

## **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, this year's theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.

Emergency managers and all those who work with and support older adult communities to access the new webpage available in English and Spanish languages at [www.Ready.gov/older-adults](http://www.Ready.gov/older-adults) and [www.Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores](http://www.Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores). For more information on preparing with disabilities visit [www.Ready.gov/disability](http://www.Ready.gov/disability) or [www.Ready.gov/es/discapacidad](http://www.Ready.gov/es/discapacidad) in Spanish.

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.

Newer and more deadly weather events are impacting New York City than ever before. Our city has faced severe wind and lightning storms that have toppled trees, torrential downpours that have led to flash floods, and even tornadoes have touched down in the city more

frequently. Now is the time to learn about weather hazards and dangers and prepare.

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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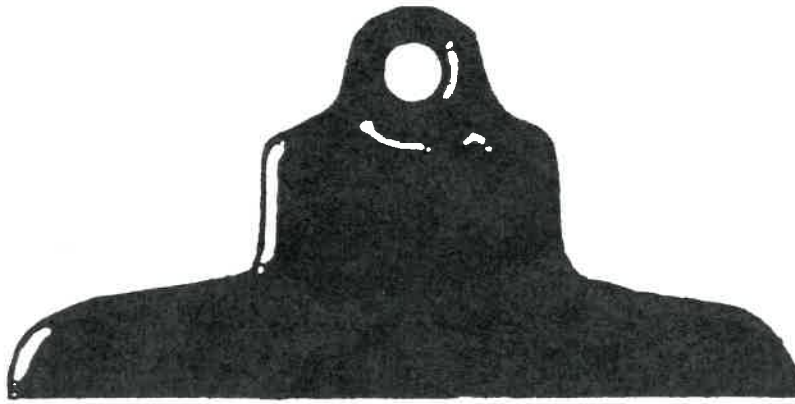
THE CERT TEAM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

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>.



**RAINFALL READY NYC:
STORM AND HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

Stormwater is rainwater or melted snow that runs off lawns, streets, and other land surfaces. Ideally, this runoff would be absorbed by plants and soil or make its way down the sewer. But, in New York City, the sidewalks and streets don't absorb rainwater. Instead, the rainwater flows into the city's catch basins, where it's channeled into the sewer system. Unfortunately, the city's catch basins only have so much capacity. Surplus rainwater inevitably flows out into streets and causes local flooding. Sewage can also back up into homes.

On Thursday, **September 28, 2023** from 6 to 8 PM, the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) will conduct a presentation on storm and hurricane preparedness. During the presentation, DEP will provide tips to help homeowners protect their homes from flooding and sewer back-ups during rainfall events. The presentation is to help community members understand the level of risk faced during an intense storm and better protect themselves from stormwater runoff.

DEP will also be giving away rain barrels, sump pumps, flood barriers, flood sensors. The property owners must live in Brooklyn and must attend the presentation on flood preparedness to receive the items (while supplies last).

The presentation will be held at Coney Island YMCA, 2980 West 29th Street, Brooklyn 11224. RSVP at www.bit.ly/DEP-BKLYNBP.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 member, Ms. Tamika Gibbs, who will celebrate a birthday in the month of September.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**, at Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 810 St. Marks Avenue (between Brooklyn and New York Avenues) at 6:30 PM.

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

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

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