NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD #8

ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2026 **VOLUME 47, NO. 7**

A note from CB8 Chairperson, Irsa Weatherspoon:

Greetings All!

Welcome to the Fall and to a New Season!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful, refreshing, and fulfilling summer. As we begin this new season, I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you as we carry forward our shared commitment to serving our community.

With every challenge and adversity comes an opportunity—an opportunity to share, to learn, to grow, and to build upon the strengths and talents that each of us brings to the table. May we continue to embrace those opportunities with open hearts and minds, always remembering that the work we do is in service to the community we live in, care about, and love.

Thank you, as always, for generously giving of your time, talents, and treasures to help make this a great community. Your dedication, commitment, and willingness to serve truly make a difference.

May this new season bring renewed energy, purpose, unity, and continued opportunities for us to make a positive impact together.

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 08/31/2026 through 09/06/2026.

	Year-to-Date		
	2026	2025	%Chg
Murder	1	4	-75
Rape	17	19	-10.5
Robbery	103	127	-18.9
Felony Assault	298	325	-8.3
Burglary	84	107	-21.5
Grand Larceny	236	295	-20
GL Auto	83	75	10.7

The overall change year-to-date is ***-13.66.***

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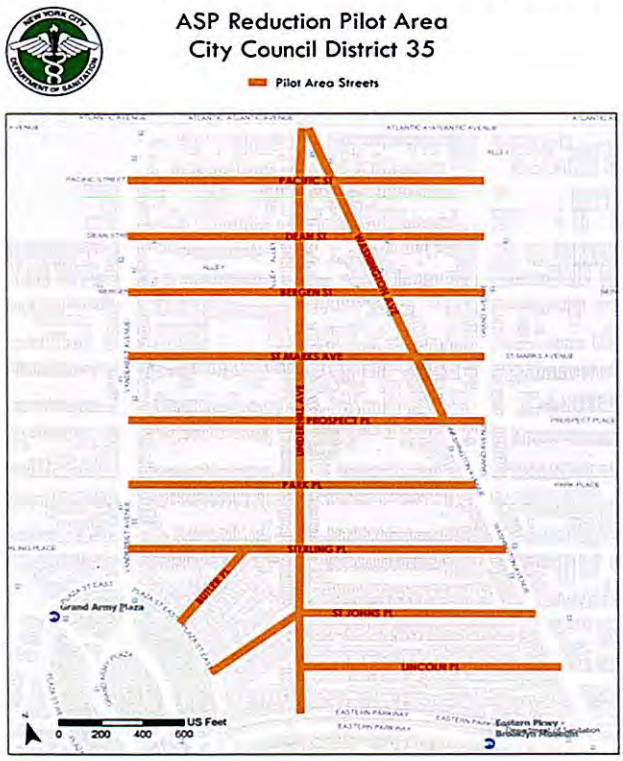
We welcome Superintendent Jason Taranow to the BK 8 Sanitation garage and encourage all residents to please call the garage at 718-685-7240 if they have any issues such as missed pick-ups or if the broom does not hit their street.

Additionally, we encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with www.sweepnyc.nyc.gov, a new interactive map that shows in real time broom locations and when the last time one appeared on your block.

Furthermore, the ASP Pilot in portions of Prospect Heights and western Crown Heights will continue through Friday, September 25th. This pilot will help

determine whether once-a-week ASP can maintain the same level of cleanliness while reducing the burden on residents.

During the pilot, participating streets will only require vehicles to be moved once each week for street cleaning. Parking signs will not change. Existing ASP signs will remain in place throughout the pilot. You will only be ticketed if you do not move your vehicle on your designated pilot day. Enforcement will be limited to Thursdays or Fridays, depending on which side of the street you park on. Outside of your designated pilot day, you will not receive an ASP ticket on participating streets, even if the posted signs indicate otherwise.



Finally, please note:

LICENSED CANNABIS DISPENSARIES

CB8 has **SIX New York State licensed cannabis dispensaries that are now open for operation**.

BK Greenery, 367 Flatbush Avenue (between Sterling Place and Park Place) – opened August 14, 2026

Transcend Wellness Crown Heights, 772 Nostrand Avenue (between Sterling and St. John's Places) – opened June 2, 2026

Take N Toke, 994 Atlantic Avenue (between Classon and Grand Avenues) – opened May 1, 2026

Hold Up Roll Up, 765 Washington Avenue (between Sterling and St. John's Places) – opened March 28, 2026

Brooklyn Organic Buds, 623 Bergen Street (between Vanderbilt and Carlton Avenues) – opened August 2025

OC Dispensary, 769 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. John's Place) – opened March 2025

There is one additional location that is licensed by OCM but has yet to open for operations. This location is Corporate Gift Solutions at 1392 St. Johns' Place.

We will continue to post licensed dispensaries. Remember all licensed shops will have this decal displayed in their window. Please continue to report all illicit dispensaries to us.

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BALLOT PROPOSALS

This November, voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on five (5) proposed amendments to the New York City Charter on the ballot this fall. You can vote "Yes" or "No" on each proposal.
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The Charter sets the rules for how New York City government operates. These proposals would change processes for using public space, city contracting, street safety projects, city-owned property and office space, building permits, and the city's financial reserves.

Below are summaries of the five proposals, including what each one would change. You can only vote either "Yes" or "No" on each one.

1. Speed Up Process for Granting a Revocable Consent to Use Public Space

"Simplify process to use public space for uses such as ramps, planters, and cafes, by removing mandatory hearings and Council disapproval of sidewalk cafes, while maintaining community and Council input."

What this proposal means: This proposal would change how New York City permits public sidewalks and streets to be used for outdoor structures like accessibility ramps, benches, electrical poles, bus shelters, and outdoor cafes.

Currently, property and business owners who want to use public space must get City permission, called a "revocable consent." First, they submit applications to the Department of Transportation (DOT) or the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI). The agency is then required to hold a public hearing, and the applicant must pay to publish ads in local newspapers. Community Boards, Council members, and Borough Presidents must also be notified. For sidewalk cafes specifically, the City Council can vote to reject the permit even after DOT approves it. The City can take back these permissions at any time, and permit holders pay an annual fee.

Under the proposal, public hearings would become optional, meaning many applications could proceed without one. Community Boards, Council members, and Borough Presidents would still be notified of the application and could submit comments to DOT or OTI, but they would have fewer formal review steps. Permit applicants would no longer pay for newspaper ads, but notices would still be posted in the City Record, the City's official public notice publication. Sidewalk cafes would be treated the same as all other revocable consents, removing the City Council's authority to reject those permits.

The new approval process and removal of required hearings and reviews would go into effect March 1, 2027 and would not apply to petitions already submitted.

2. Reduce City Contractor Paperwork; Require Regular Meetings of Procurement Policy Board

"Reduce paperwork for City's contractors by authorizing Procurement Policy Board to simplify contractor questionnaire. Require quarterly meetings of the Procurement Policy Board. Remove mandatory hearing for required client services report."

What this proposal means: This proposal would change the City's contracting process, which governs how the City hires businesses and nonprofits to provide goods and services. It would also require regular meetings of the Procurement Policy Board (PPB), which sets rules for City contracting.

Currently, prospective contractors must fill out the same detailed questionnaire, maintained by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) and the Comptroller, regardless of the value of the contract. Under this proposal, the PPB would determine the questionnaire's contents and could reduce requirements for certain contractors, such as smaller contractors or lower-value contracts. For franchises and concessions, the Franchise and Concession Review Committee would have the same authority.

Agencies that award contracts for direct services like shelters, job training programs, and youth services must currently develop an annual plan for these contracts. Under this proposal, these agencies would no longer have to hold a public hearing on their draft plan but would still need to publish a final plan each year.

Currently, the Mayor's Office can delegate contract approval authority to Agency Chief Contracting Officers, but not for certain contracts over $5 million. This proposal would allow the Mayor's Office to delegate approval of those contracts as well, with the approval of the agency's Commissioner.

Under State law, the City can currently accept public comments on certain higher value contracts instead of holding an in-person public hearing. Under the proposal, this option would become permanent in City law, and the PPB would decide the contract value at which a public comment period is required.

Lastly, the PPB is not currently required to meet on any regular schedule, and this proposal would require them to meet at least once every three months.

3. Speed Up Street Safety Projects, Disposition of Unused City Property, Office Leasing

"Simplify review of street safety projects to reduce construction timelines. Fast track disposition of unused City property with approval from City Planning Commission. Expedite leasing offices used for City workforce."

What this proposal means: This proposal would change the City's approval processes in three different areas: major transportation projects like bike lanes and road redesigns, the sale or lease of certain City-owned properties, and the City's acquisition of office space for its employees.

Currently, before implementing major transportation projects, such as adding or removing bike and bus lanes, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must notify local elected officials and Community Boards and consult with the Police Department, Fire Department, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, and the Department of Small Business Services. In limited cases where public safety concerns require immediate action, this proposal would clarify existing law that DOT can start work prior to notifying elected officials and community boards, when DOT finds that the project is necessary based on safety data. Additionally, technical errors or missed consultations would not be a valid reason to stop a project.

Most sales or leases of City-owned property currently require the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to complete a seven-month process, called the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). Under this proposal, sales or leases of smaller lots and development rights on City-owned landmark sites could use a shorter review process, so long as the project does not require an environmental impact statement. This shorter process, called the Expedited Land Use Review Procedure (ELURP), allows for concurrent review by Community Boards and Borough Presidents and final decision by the City Planning Commission, without final review by the City Council. The proposal would also make permanent a program that allows the City to sell undevelopable lots to adjacent property owners without public auction. Lastly, the proposal would remove a required public hearing from the process when more than two years pass after Council approval of a property sale or acquisition.

Currently, when the City seeks to acquire or lease office space for employees, the proposal must go through a process that requires notifying the local Community Board and all five Borough Presidents, a public hearing and vote by the City Planning Commission, and City Council review with the power to disapprove by a two-thirds vote. This proposal would remove hearing requirements and approvals from the City Council and City Planning Commission. Instead, the DCAS Commissioner would certify the acquisition and notify the local Community Board, City Council member, and Borough President in advance. After the acquisition is final, DCAS would also notify the City Council and Comptroller.

Most changes would take effect immediately upon voter approval certification, except the permanent authorization for selling undevelopable land, which would take effect on December 31, 2030.

4. Simplify Building Permitting and Move Waterfront Permitting to Department of Buildings

"Create centralized construction permits hub to simplify permitting. Move waterfront permitting from Department of Small Business Services to Department of Buildings. Allow construction approval by additional Department of Buildings officials."

What this proposal means: This proposal would change how New York City handles construction and building permits and approvals. It would authorize additional agency officials to approve construction projects, create a centralized construction permitting system, and move waterfront construction permitting to the Department of Buildings (DOB).

Currently, the DOB Commissioner can only appoint a limited number of officials with the ability to approve construction documents. This proposal would allow the Commissioner to appoint additional officials with this power, expanding the number of officials authorized to sign off on permits. In the Charter, Borough Superintendents would be formally called Borough Commissioners to reflect their present-day titles.

Applicants seeking construction permits must currently submit documents to multiple City agencies through separate systems. Under this proposal, DOB would be required to develop a single, centralized system for submitting permit applications and receiving approval by 2030, and all City agencies would be required to use that system.

Lastly, the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) currently manages construction permitting for certain waterfront structures, including maritime buildings. Under this proposal, that responsibility would move from SBS to DOB, but existing permits and approvals would remain unchanged.

These changes would go into effect immediately upon voter approval certification, except for the transfer of waterfront construction permitting, which would go into effect on December 31, 2030, or as soon as a new waterfront-structure code is adopted and goes into effect.

5. Set Contribution Targets for Rainy Day Fund to Promote Sufficient Budgetary Reserves

"Set target amount of money to hold in reserve funds, including rainy day fund, to address unexpected financial hardships in future years, and require development of methodology to calculate contributions."

What this proposal means: This proposal would set savings targets for the City's Rainy Day Fund and require the City to publish a plan for how it adds money to the fund.
In 2019, voters approved the creation of a Rainy Day Fund, which allows the City to set aside money for use during economic downturns, emergencies, or unexpected revenue shortfalls. However, there is currently no requirement to save any particular amount each year.

This proposal would set a goal of maintaining a minimum balance equal to at least 12% of the City's previous year's tax revenue in the Rainy Day Fund or other fund reserves. By May 2027, the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Comptroller, would publish a plan outlining how deposits should be made when the fund is below target. The methodology would be updated by May 2030 and every four years after that. Deposits could take place over several years or be skipped during financial hardship and would still require approval by the Mayor and City Council through the normal annual budget process.

The proposal would also make permanent in City law a State requirement that limits withdrawals to 50% of the fund unless the Mayor certifies a compelling fiscal reason.

These changes would go into effect immediately upon voter approval certification.

For additional information and hyperlinks for greater detail, visit https://www.nycvotes.org/whats-on-the-ballot/2026-ballot-proposals/.

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CELEBRATE HEALTHY AGING

As we welcome September, we want to celebrate Healthy Aging Month – a dedicated time to focus on the positive aspects of aging and the importance of living a healthy, active, and meaningful life. Established in 1992, Healthy Aging Month encourages adults age 45 and older to embrace healthy habits that promote physical, mental, social, and financial well-being. This year's theme, "Curiosity Has No Age Limit," reminds us that learning, exploring, trying new things, and staying connected can enrich our lives at every age.

Healthy Aging Month serves as a reminder that taking care of our health is important at every stage of life. Simple habits such as eating nutritious foods, staying physically active, keeping the mind engaged, maintaining social connections, and taking steps to prevent falls can make a meaningful difference in our health and well-being.

Below are some events and activities that may be of benefit to you:

Healthy Aging Fair: The NYC Department for the Aging (NYC Aging) will host its Healthy Aging Fair on Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Asphalt Green, 555 East 90th Street, New York, NY. Older New Yorkers and their caregivers are invited to join the fair and take part in health screenings, workshops, demonstrations, yoga, lawn games, and other activities promoting physical and mental well-being. Various organizations, including other City agencies, will also be available to share information about programs, services, and resources to help older New Yorkers stay healthy and active throughout the year. For more information, call Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).

NYC Parks Fitness Expo: Join NYC Parks for its upcoming Fitness Expo on Saturday, September 19th, and explore opportunities to stay active and learn more about fitness and wellness. Visit https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/fitness-expo for more information.

Falls Prevention Awareness Week is September 21st thru the 25th. Falls can be prevented with simple safety measures. During this week, learn how to reduce the risk of falls and stay safe.

Preventing Falls Among Older Adults Webinar: The NYC Health Department's Healthy Aging Team and Injury and Violence Prevention Team will host a webinar on "Preventing Falls Among Older Adults." Join us to learn practical strategies and resources to help prevent falls and promote safety and independence among older adults. Please see the attached flyer for webinar details.

Falls Prevention Awareness Week Calendar: Falls Prevention Awareness Week Calendar: Find workshops, tips, and events to help prevent falls throughout Falls Prevention Awareness Week.

Brain Health: Find resources to support brain health and people living with dementia through NYC REACH Brain Health Resources. The site includes provider and caregiver guides with information on dementia care, care coordination, social services, screening tools, respite care, legal and financial support, and caregiver well-being.

For the full calendar of events, more information on all programs, and information on how to join any of the events, visit https://bit.ly/4iQ5goY. (case sensitive)

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BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL

Brooklynites will have an opportunity to explore how independent bookstores are becoming gathering places for literature and community.

Four Brooklyn bookstores will be featured at an upcoming event during the Brooklyn Book Festival, highlighting the role of Black women-

owned bookstores in creating spaces for literature, community and cultural connection. The Center for Black Literature will host the 2026 Brooklyn Book Festival Bookend Event on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at AB1 Dining Hall on the second floor of Medgar Evers College, 1638 Bedford Avenue.

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CONGRESSIONAL HACKATHON

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke are pleased to announce the 2026 Congressional Back to School Hackathon Challenge on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Long Island University Brooklyn located at 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn 11201.

At the event, middle and high school students within New York's 8th and 9th Congressional Districts will create apps addressing local social and educational issues. Participating students will have the opportunity to submit the apps they create to the 2026 Congressional App Challenge.

Sign up to attend the Hackathon by visiting this link! Seating is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up at https://bit.ly/4Adcslt (case sensitive)

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FREE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Hyperdreamers Collection helps parents turn birthdays and celebrations into support for children's experiences, activities, and future setup instead of more toys or clutter. It is free for families to create a collection and share it with loved ones.

Hyperdreamers Collection helps parents organize meaningful gifts for kids via a free family gifting platform that helps parents turn birthdays and holidays into experiences, enrichment, and opportunities their children can grow through.

A parent creates a collection for their child — lessons, activities, cultural experiences, savings goals — and shares one link. Family and friends choose what they want to support. Since families already spend generously on children at birthdays and holidays — much of it on toys that are set aside within weeks. The lessons, camps, and cultural experiences that shape a child's path are often the first costs a household has to cut. Hyperdreamers does not ask anyone to spend more. It gives families a simple way to point generosity that already exists toward opportunity.

To learn more or to sign up, visit https://hyperdreamerscollection.com/.

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BROOKLYN ORG OPPORTUNITIES

Brooklyn Org is pleased to announce several upcoming funding opportunities and nonprofit events.

The General Funding Program deadline is September 30, 2026. Brooklyn Org provides multi-year, general operating support of up to $45,000 per year for up to three years for organizations with annual operating budgets over $100,000. Learn more at https://brooklyn.org/bko-funding/.

The Microgrants Program deadline is November 30, 2026. Brooklyn Org provides one-year general operating support grants of up to $10,000 for community and neighborhood-based organizations with annual operating budgets under $100,000. Learn More at https://brooklyn.org/microgrants/.

Organizations interested in applying can also view our most recent application clinic recording: https://vimeo.com/1171099762.

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NYC DEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DISABILITY UPDATE

Home modification programs pay for homes to be altered and repaired according to a resident's needs. Many of these programs aim to make participants' homes safer and more accessible for people with disabilities. Common home modifications include: Wheelchair ramps; Stair lifts; Grab bars; Shower chairs; Widened doorways; Lower shelves; Non-skid flooring.

Access to Home (ATH) programs are managed by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). They provide financial assistance to make homes safer and more accessible for people with disabilities receiving low and moderate income. Participants can get up to $25,000 for their modifications. Individuals cannot apply directly to these programs. They must apply through community partners.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Medical documentation that describes limitations caused by a disability or condition
- A household income at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI) for regular ATH and ATH for Medicaid recipients
- A household income at or below 120% for ATH for veterans

Community partners that currently offer Access to Home programs in New York City include:

- Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) - Call Crystal Belio at 646-849-8200 or email cbelio@cidny.org
- New York Foundation for Senior Citizens (NYFSC) - Call NYFSC at 212962-7559
- Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHDLC) - Call CHDLC at 718-647-2800
- Hamaspik of Kings County - Call Hamaspik Kings at 917-791-4225

HCR also manages Residential Emergency Services to Offer Home Repairs to the Elderly (RESTORE) programs.

RESTORE programs provide financial assistance to make homes more accessible to homeowners aged 60 and up. Participants can receive up to $20,000 for their modifications. Eligibility requirements include: Be at least 60 years old; Own and occupy the home they want modified or repaired; Have a household income at or below 100%.

AMI Community partners that currently offer RESTORE programs in New York City include: Hamaspik of Kings County - Call Hamaspik Kings County at 917-7914225.

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IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM NYC DEPT. OF BUILDINGS

Local Law 15 of 2026 expands and extends the temporary protections and assistance available for certain accessory signs, including business storefront signs. An accessory sign is a sign that directs attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or activity conducted on the same zoning lot where the sign is located.

The Dept. of Buildings (DOB) has extended the Moratorium on the Issuance of Summonses thru February 8, 2028. DOB will not issue violations for work without a permit and other applicable violations for accessory signs that were in existence on or before February 9, 2025.

The moratorium does not apply in cases where a) the accessory sign creates an imminent threat to public health or safety; or b) the Commissioner of Buildings determines that the sign is otherwise not eligible for the temporary waiver.

Important to note: DOB will continue to respond to 311 complaints concerning illegal signs and will inspect the condition to determine whether the sign qualifies for the moratorium. The moratorium does not authorize an unsafe sign or make a noncompliant sign lawful. Property and business owners are encouraged to bring existing signs into compliance with the NYC Construction Codes and Zoning Resolution before the moratorium expires.

Signs must continue to comply with applicable safety requirements. DOB may issue violations or take emergency enforcement action where a sign creates an imminent threat to property and public safety.

Additional DOB Civil-Penalty Waiver for Accessory Signs: DOB does not impose a civil penalty for Work Without a Permit for the installation of an accessory sign that a) is accessory to use on the same zoning lot; b) does not exceed
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150 square feet in area, measured on one face only; and c) does not exceed 1,200 pounds in weight. Penalties imposed as a result of violations issued on or after December 28, 2017, may be waived.

To request the waiver, select Accessory Sign Penalty Waiver (ASPW) on the current L2: Requests for Overrides, Reductions or Waivers of Civil Penalties for Work Without a Permit form. Effective March 30, 2026, DOB only accepts the L2 Form bearing a revision date of 03/26. Applicants should review the current L2 Instructions before submitting a request.

Temporary Assistance for Accessory Signs: Through August 7, 2028, DOB will administer a temporary assistance program for qualifying respondents whose judgments resulting from applicable accessory-sign violations were resolved by payment on or after June 1, 2006.

Assistance includes the following:

- technical assistance with obtaining permits required for an accessory sign;
- review of permit applications related to the installation of an accessory sign;
- a preliminary zoning review within seven days after DOB receives the application; and
- a waiver of all DOB fees connected with permits relevant to the installation of an accessory sign.

The fee waiver applies to qualifying permit fees incurred during the temporary assistance-program period. See RF1- Refund Request Application.
Visit the Installing a Business Sign: A Step-by-Step Guide page at https://bit.ly/4gM9kFx (case sensitive) for more information.

Finally, DOB is hosting in-person assistance services on Sunday, October 18, 2026 from 9:30A to 4:30P at BPJCC Community Center located at 5102 13th Avenue, Brooklyn.

This is not a seminar or presentation. Owners of one to four family properties can meet directly with DOB staff individually to resolve property violations, outstanding job applications, permit requests, and small business inquiries. Same day processing will be available for eligible concerns.

- Onsite review of Stop Work Orders and processing of eligible requests for lifting, as well as submission of inspection requests for Full/Partial Vacate Orders
- File and upload Certificate of Correction (COC) for review and same day processing.
- Obtain fee estimation calculation
- Payment options available for civil penalties, work without a permit, and other DOB related violations
- Meet with senior DOB staff from various units on Building Code compliance matters.

This is your opportunity to receive real time, one-on-one assistance with DOB staff and resolve/remedy outstanding violations, gather pertinent information, and even perform simple tasks related to your home.

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FREE COURSES TO LAUNCH OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS

NYC Dept. of Small Business Services offers a host of free business assistance. Learn about free services provided by their NYC Business Solutions Centers to help you start or grow a business!

- Upper Manhattan: Tuesday, September 15
- Queens: Tuesday, September 22
- Bronx: Tuesday, September 29
- Staten Island: Tuesday, October 6
- Brooklyn: Tuesday, October 13

To learn more about these events or to register, visit https://bit.ly/4gZunTN (case sensitive).

Additionally, SBS offers free courses to help businesses and potential entrepreneurs. All links lead to the page for additional information or to register and all are case sensitive. Courses include:

Unlock Free Advertising Secrets: Boost Your Business Today: These LinkLocal webinars cover
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the fundamentals of using this free and low-cost advertising platform for small businesses and provide step-by-step guidance on creating ad campaigns to reach target audiences within your communities. (https://bit.ly/4igH5zQ)

Boost Your Ranking with Search Engine Optimization (SEO): Learn how to optimize your website using key SEO strategies that boost your search engine ranking. (https://bit.ly/4yvTzs9)

Developing a Marketing Strategy: Learn how to build a research-based marketing strategy that clarifies your "why," defines your customer, and strengthens every marketing tactic you use. (https://bit.ly/4xI7USg)

NYC Future Fund Informational Webinar: Learn about NYC Future Fund's flexible, revenue-based loans and how to apply for financing that supports growing and seasonal businesses. (https://bit.ly/4r0OWDO)

NYC BEST Bootcamp: Start Your Business the BEST Way! NYC BEST is partnering with various city agencies and community partners to help small business owners understand city rules and regulations through a series of webinars covering the following topics:

- Permits, licenses, and application processes
- Government resources and incentives
- Requirements for building out or renovating a storefront
- Working with Con Edison & National Grid
- Responding to violations or summonses
- Outdoor vending
- Waste management

Learn more and register at https://bit.ly/4gLbUeP.

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FREE PROFESSIONAL ARTS TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet is a nonprofit arts organization based in Brooklyn. They will be offering community arts classes on Saturdays beginning this month. The program will consist of Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, Hip Hop, and West African dance classes. Free adult classes are offered every Saturday at 300 Adelphi Street. They will also offer free West African drum classes.

To learn more about the organization, visit their website at https://www.creativeoutlet.org/.

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TURN YOUR FOOD IDEA INTO A BUSINESS PLAN

Hot Bread Kitchen is an organization that creates economic opportunity through free culinary job skills training, small business programs, and an ecosystem of support for individuals who face barriers to meaningful careers.

They partner with a network of good food employers that offer flexibility, training, and opportunities for career and personal growth. They connect the participants in their food career programs with quality jobs in the food industry, including roles as bakers, cooks, and kitchen managers. In their food entrepreneurship programs, they support a range of businesses, from caterers to consumer packaged goods to brick-and-mortar cafes, to help aspiring and current business owners thrive.

Seed is a 12-week program where you test your food business idea through a mix of self-paced videos and hands-on workshops. The program covers the A to Z of launching a food business, including defining your product and customer, pricing and financial planning, production and operations, marketing, legal set-up, and funding your business.

HBK offers 3 Seed cohorts each year for the amazing price of FREE. To learn more, to see eligibility requirements, or to apply for an upcoming cohort, visit https://hotbreadkitchen.org/hbki/hbki-seed/.

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING PROGRAM

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or human caused disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

On Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7PM, join Calvary Community Church leadership and the 77th Precinct Community Council at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue) for the training. Register at www.prepare.ny.gov.

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FINANCIAL LITERACY EVENT

The Brooklyn Collaborative of Housing Development Corporations and its supporters are proud to present the launch of the Brooklyn Collaborative Financial Literacy Community event. This in-person gathering is dedicated to empowering homeowners, tenants, seniors, and young adults through a series of workshops, hands-on resources, and informative literature.

Join them on October 3, 2026 at 9:00 AM (Eastern Time) at Medgar Evers College, CUNY to engage with experts and community leaders focused on enhancing financial knowledge and skills. To learn more or to register, visit https://bit.ly/4A4uTZt (case sensitive).

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NYC HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

The New York City Health Department is proposing to add a new Chapter 41 to Title 24 of the Rules of the City of New York (the "RCNY") to establish rules for determining whether a building has passed or failed an inspection for rats pursuant to Local Law 8 of 2026.

You are invited to comment on the proposed rules. Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on September 14, 2026. A public meeting will be held online on September 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to hear comments on the rules.

To view the proposal and find out how to comment or how to join the meeting online, visit nyc.gov/health/orders and see the section titled Notices of Intention, 2026.

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"GREEN INDUSTRY" OPPORTUNITIES

Wondering what's new in advancing energy and climate justice in New York State? The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has made funding available to grow New York's Clean Energy Supply chain.

NYSERDA is making $4 million available in technical support and implementation resources to develop actionable, data-driven economic development plans that will improve New York's competitiveness in attracting and growing clean energy supply chain opportunities. All public, for-profit, and/or non-profit Economic Development Entities can apply for funding. Proposals for Round 1 are due on October 21, 2026.

Green Construction Training Program: Andromeda Community initiative offers an 8-Week Green Construction Training Program to provide hands-on training in general construction and building restoration while developing the skills needed to succeed in green construction and energy efficiency careers. The program begins October 26, 2026. To apply, fill out Andromeda Community Initiative's interest form.

The program is funded by New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Office of Just Energy Transition (OJET) Growing the Clean Energy Workforce (GCEW) funding opportunity.
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To learn more about NYSERDA and to learn about additional funding, training, or job opportunities, visit https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About.

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BEGIN AGAIN

Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez in conjunction with Congressman Hakeem Jeffries is pleased to announce the upcoming "Begin Again" campaign. Begin Again is designed to help constituents resolve their NYPD summonses dated prior to September 10, 2026. Court and defense attorneys will be available to resolve outstanding summons warrants for the following:

- Public consumption of alcohol
- Unlawful possession of marijuana
- Disorderly conduct
- Riding a bike on the sidewalk
- Unreasonable noise
- In a park or other space after closing
- Loitering/trespassing
- Unleashed dog
- Spitting/littering
- Much more

For more information and to pre-register, call 718-250-3888 or visit www.brooklynda.org/begin-again/.

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JOBS NYC HIRING HALL

Looking to land a job with the City of New York or local private employers? Head down to the Brooklyn Hiring Hall for onsite interviews, career development programs, and direct connection to NYC benefits. The next Hiring Hall will be held right here in CB8 at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue on September 24, 2026 from 10AM – 2PM.

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The next 77th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7PM at Friends of Crown Heights (671 Prospect Place). This is an opportunity to come together, hear important updates, discuss public safety concerns, and share your thoughts and ideas about issues in the Crown Heights community.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to 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 8, 2026 at 6PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue. All are invited to attend.

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ACROSS THE BOARD is a monthly publication:

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