



## BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC L. ADAMS' MESSAGE OF THE MONTH



### WHAT'S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

**One of Brooklyn's fastest growing populations is its Mexican-American community.**

In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, a holiday recognizing the Battle of Puebla and a great source of cultural pride, Borough President Adams hosted a heritage celebration with the Asociación Mujeres Poblanas de Brooklyn on Tuesday, May 5th in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Entertainment was provided by La Banda Ferros and Ballet Folklorico Yavidaxiu.

**This year marked the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day,** a commemoration of great significance to the borough's veteran community as well as those of Russian descent;

over 20 million people from the Soviet Union perished in World War II. Borough President Adams participated in ceremonies and celebrations of this occasion on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th in Brighton Beach, Canarsie, and Sheepshead Bay, including at the first annual Brighton Beach Family Day.

**Happy Mother's Day, Brooklyn!** As part of his Family Friendly Brooklyn initiative, Borough President Adams joined mothers and their newborns on Friday, May 8th to cut the ribbon on his new Lactation Lounge, a space for breastfeeding and expressing milk. Brooklyn Borough Hall is now the largest City-owned

building to host such a space, which is now open to the public during regular business hours.

**Over 650 people came out to Brooklyn Borough Hall to take advantage of Brooklyn Job Fair 2015,** hosted by Borough President Adams, in partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, May 13th. Dozens of New York City's major businesses were on hand to review resumes and conduct interviews. Job applicants in attendance have already reported being hired as a result of the event!

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Borough President Adams honored fallen American soldiers on the occasion of Memorial Day during a wreath-laying ceremony held at the Brooklyn War Memorial in Cadman Plaza Park. Photo Credit: Judith Boroson



Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams kicks off his 2015 School Lunchtime Concert Series, held in collaboration with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and sponsored by Investors Bank, by joining the guitar club at MS 577 Conselyea Preparatory School in Williamsburg before their performance in Willoughby Plaza.



Borough President Adams joined a diverse array of Brooklynites, including the parents of fallen NYPD Detective Wenjian Liu and an array of festive dancers, during his celebration of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month at Brooklyn Borough Hall; the event featured Burmese, Chinese, Korean, and Pakistani cultural displays.

Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

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**Borough President Adams kicked off his School Lunchtime Concert Series**, presented in collaboration with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, on Wednesday, May 13th. The concerts are all performed by local youth in Willoughby Plaza; the first performance featured the steel band at MS 354 The School of Integrated Learning in Crown Heights and the guitar club at MS 577 Conselyea Preparatory School in Williamsburg.

**Brooklyn and Haiti's flags have a major thing in common:** they both bear a version of the phrase "unity makes strength." On Monday, May 18th, there was strength in the unity of the people gathered to celebrate Haitian Flag Day at

Brooklyn Borough Hall with Borough President Adams, in conjunction with Council Member Jumaane D. Williams. The event honored local Haitian-Americans and featured several cultural performances.

**Borough President Adams was honored to commemorate Memorial Day across the borough of Brooklyn.** He participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Brooklyn War Memorial in Cadman Plaza Park on Sunday, May 24th, announcing his intent to allocate \$1 million in funding for the site's restoration. Additionally, on Monday, May 25th, he attended Brooklyn's 148th Kings County Memorial Day Parade in Bay Ridge as well as the annual Memorial Day concert at Green-Wood Cemetery.

**Congratulations to all the new members of Brooklyn's eighteen community boards!** Borough President Adams, who is responsible for appointing board members for their two-year terms, held an induction ceremony for the new class, which included several teenagers for the first time ever, at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, May 26th.

**May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month**, a time to recognize many of Brooklyn's most vibrant communities. Borough President Adams held a celebration on Friday, May 29th at Brooklyn Borough Hall that included displays of Burmese, Chinese, Korean, and Pakistani culture.



Borough President Adams stands in Brooklyn Borough Hall (left) and next to a limousine parked outside (right) alongside Brooklyn teens dressed in their prom attire as well as Council Member Laurie Cumbo, chair of the Committee on Women's Issues, to offer important safety tips for parents and students alike this prom season.

Photo Credits: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

## COMMUNITY ALERTS

**With prom season approaching, Borough President Adams gathered a diverse group of Brooklyn teens at Brooklyn Borough Hall** on Sunday, May 17th, all dressed in their prom attire, to offer important safety tips for parents and students. Parents are urged to prepare a successful, safe night for their teen, using responsible limousine services and ensuring adults are present at any pre-prom and post-prom parties. They are recommended to obtain cell phone numbers for everyone attending the prom with their teen, as well as the locations and sponsors of their pre-prom and post-prom activities. Teens are asked to plan ahead for prom night, fully charging their cell phone to be able to message their parents if their plans change at any time as well as having a responsible person available for a safe ride home in case of an emergency. Additionally, they should not accept any drinks from someone they do not know, discarding their drink if they leave it unattended at any time. Anyone can report underage drinking by calling the New York State Police at (866) UNDER-21. To report

rape or sexual assault, individuals can reach Safe Horizon by calling (212) 227-3000.

**In 2011, 10% of Brooklyn residents had some form of disability.** Children, young adults and adults with special needs require added services and support to ensure the best quality of life is attained. To assist parents of children with special needs, Borough President Adams unveiled a road mapping guide on Thursday, May 21st that offers information for inspiration. The starter guide helps families have a knowledgeable conversation with their child's primary care physician, case manager, or service coordinator. Those interested in the guide, which includes details on education, family resources, health care, housing, support services, and transportation, can pick up a copy at Brooklyn Borough Hall during regular business hours.

**On Wednesday, May 27th, Borough President Adams launched his Access to Legal Service program** at Brooklyn Borough Hall, recognizing the legal needs

of his constituents with financial challenges. In partnership with the Brooklyn branch of Legal Services NYC and the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, he will offer free legal services in Room G-80 on the second Wednesday of every month, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, on foreclosure intervention and prevention. Additionally, in the same room on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, there will be assistance provided on housing and elder law, as well as pension matters. Appointments are required; please call (718) 802-3777 to make an appointment.



**Our Constituent Assistance Center is here to serve all of Brooklyn.** If you or someone you know are having any issues, or if you have questions about issues like alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup or other community matters, such as the matters in this month's update, call the Center at (718) 802-3777.

# LATEST INITIATIVES

**Alongside advocates for the homeless community, Borough President Adams led a successful campaign of public advocacy** which resulted in improved interagency cooperation and the restoration of State funding for a number of homeless shelters in New York City. On Thursday, May 14th, he made public his call for Governor Andrew Cuomo to change the course laid out by his Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to withhold funding from sixteen homeless shelters due to poor conditions, citing the importance of working in partnership to address issues rather than penalize struggling sites at a time of near-record homelessness in the city. As Borough President Adams held a press conference the next day outside the Auburn Family Shelter in Fort Greene, one of the homeless shelters that would have been affected by this decision, the State released a statement indicating they had agreed to work with the City on a plan that would lead to the restoration of funding. The

proposed policy by OTDA was projected to withhold \$2.9 million every month from the sixteen shelters.

**On Monday, May 18th, Borough President Adams joined NYC & Company, the city's tourism agency,** and former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who serves as their vice president of borough engagement, at the Brooklyn Museum to launch the Tourism Ready initiative. This effort is aimed at assisting Brooklyn businesses and cultural organizations with strategies on how to boost visitor spending, including working with tour operators who sell vacation destinations to travelers nationally and internationally. At the kickoff, Borough President Adams spoke about the importance of small businesses having a digital presence on applications such as Google Maps and Yelp in order to market their services, as well as the notion of community collaboration in creating attractive package deals for tourists. In the months ahead, Borough President

Adams will further his efforts in expanding tourism to untapped parts of the borough.

**The hospitality sector had the fastest rate of job growth in Brooklyn between 2008 and 2012,** expanding twice as fast as the rest of the city; of these jobs, 85 percent were in restaurants and bars. Recognizing that with growth comes growing pains, Borough President Adams joined local entrepreneurs on Wednesday, May 27th to launch the Brooklyn Nightlife and Restaurant Coalition, a group whose mission will be to improve relations and dialogue between industry stakeholders, community members, and City agencies. The Coalition will be chaired by Borough President Adams and Dave Rosen, owner and operator of The Woods, a bar and restaurant in Williamsburg. Membership will include owners of bars and restaurants in each community district, representatives from regulatory and enforcement agencies, and trade associations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Borough President Adams continues to present his **School Lunchtime Concert Series**, in collaboration with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. The final dates for this season will be **Wednesday, June 3rd, Wednesday, June 10th, and Wednesday, June 17th**, all performed at noon by local youth in Willoughby Plaza, located at the corner of Willoughby Street and Pearl Street.

**Brooklyn Day is back!** The holiday was first created by the New York State Legislature in 1902, originally connected to Rally Day parades held by Sunday Schools in Brooklyn dating back to 1829; it is now celebrated citywide as Chancellor's Day with the closure of all New York City public schools, making the event a prime opportunity to serve the community and provide free outdoor activities on the students' day off. Join Borough President Adams in **Canarsie Park on Thursday, June 4th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM** for tons of free family fun!

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the congressional adoption of **Caribbean-American**

**Heritage Month**, a commemoration of the culture that this region and their people have brought to Brooklyn. **Borough President Adams is hosting a variety of events at Brooklyn Borough Hall throughout June** to celebrate, starting with a lunchtime film on Friday, June 5th at 12:00 PM. On Friday, June 12th, there will be an expo of Caribbean-American businesses from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM and a Taste & Tour of the Caribbean at 4:00 PM, with entertainment throughout the day. Finally, Thursday, June 18th will feature a networking mixer and symposium at 6:00 PM.

**Happy Pride!** Borough President Adams is hosting an awards ceremony and reception recognizing LGBTQ Pride Month on **Monday, June 8th at 6:00 PM in Brooklyn Borough Hall**. Later in the week, Brooklynites are welcome to march with him at the twilight parade on Saturday, June 13th; it kicks off at 7:30 PM at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Lincoln Place.

Borough President Adams encourages all to come out to his **Access-Friendly NYC public hearing on Tuesday, June 9th from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall. He wants to hear from Brooklynites on how to make New York City more accessible to seniors and people with disabilities.

**A series of blood drives will be hosted at Brooklyn Borough Hall** by Borough President Adams, beginning on Wednesday, June 10th from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, in coordination with the American Red Cross and Music Brings Life. Last year's blood drives resulted in 75 potential lives saved, more than doubling than pre-drive goal. Future dates will include Wednesday, July 1st and Wednesday, August 5th.

**If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by e-mailing [askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov). Additionally, to stay up-to-date with the office, visit [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org) to sign up for Borough President Adams' paperless notifications, like his Facebook page, and follow @BPEricAdams on Twitter.**