



Borough President Adams and Deputy Borough President Reyna honored sixteen female leaders at his Women's History Month celebration in Brooklyn Borough Hall, which featured a keynote address from TV anchor, trial attorney, and best-selling author Rikki Klieman. Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office



Borough President Adams dressed in traditional garb during a celebration of Nowruz, the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar, held at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Photo Credit: Eric L. Adams/Brooklyn BP's Office

Let her in! That was the rally cry of Borough President Adams at an event he held on Sunday, March 15th with a citywide coalition of men along with Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, chair of the Committee on Women's Issues, to demand that leadership in Albany allow the first-ever female, namely State Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to sit in on statewide budget negotiations. Following the rally outside 250 Broadway, home to the downstate legislative chambers for the Assembly and State Senate, he launched a MoveOn.org petition on the issue that gained hundreds of signatures within its first twenty-four hours.

Nowruz is the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar, a holiday observed by communities from Central

Asia. On Sunday, March 15th, for the first time ever, Brooklyn Borough Hall was host to a celebration of this spring festival, as Borough President Adams donned cultural attire and tried some traditional dances.

The luck of the Irish was strong at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 17th for Borough President Adams' annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast, co-hosted with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal organization founded in New York City in 1836. The event, which honored four local Irish-Americans for their community contributions, featured performances of the Irish and American national anthems in addition to entertainment by the O'Malley Irish Dance Academy.

Opa! The Greek community of Brooklyn was celebrated by Borough President Adams at a cultural heritage celebration on Monday, March 23rd in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Along with an exposition of traditional dance by local youth and a sampling of ethnic cuisine, the evening was marked by the recognition of a dozen notable Greek-Americans in the borough.

On Monday, March 30th, Borough President Adams hosted a celebration of Women's History Month at Brooklyn Borough Hall, featuring a keynote address from TV anchor, trial attorney, and best-selling author Rikki Klieman. The event featured an expo of women-owned businesses showcasing their wares, as well as the honoring of sixteen local she-roes.

Borough President Adams walked arm-in-arm with (from left to right) civil rights attorney Norman Siegel, Dr. Karen S. Daughtry, and State Senator Jesse Hamilton during a march he held with civil rights attorney Norman Siegel across the Brooklyn Bridge, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first of three marches conducted by civil rights activists in 1965 from Selma, Alabama to the state's capital of Montgomery. Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office



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



WHAT'S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams was proud to join Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and members of the Muslim community at PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington in Bay Ridge to announce that Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha had been added as official school holidays. He hailed the decision as not only a significant sign of respect to families that want to meet their religious and educational duties without conflict, but as an incredible opportunity to bring all of the City's students closer together through cultural appreciation.

The toughest members of the media are sometimes the youngest! On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams hosted a roundtable at Brooklyn Borough Hall with student reporters from PS 29 John M.

Harrigan in Cobble Hill. He answered some hard-hitting questions about his education agenda for Brooklyn and offered some long-term career advice to the journalists-in-training.

The 50th anniversary of the first of three marches conducted by civil rights activists from Selma, Alabama to the state's capital of Montgomery was observed on Saturday, March 7th. To commemorate the occasion, which helped lead to the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, Borough President Adams joined civil rights attorney Norman Siegel in leading a march across the Brooklyn Bridge with over five hundred New Yorkers. Joined by leaders such as former New York City Mayor David Dinkins and Dr. Karen S. Daughtry, wife of nationally prominent pastor Reverend Dr. Herbert Daughtry, the march concluded at

Brooklyn Borough Hall, where he hosted a community viewing of President Barack Obama's speech to the nation from Selma.

In response to the brutal beating of a 15-year-old female by four teenage girls inside a McDonald's in Flatbush, an attack which was recorded and went viral, Borough President Adams announced a \$1,000 reward, which he would personally fund, for information leading to the arrest of those responsible. At a press conference outside the McDonald's on Thursday, March 12th, he joined community leaders to denounce the violence, urge the community to provide information, and call for greater efforts to stem gang behavior, which is believed to be related to this event.

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On the left, Borough President Adams held up a smoke detector next to his poster on fire safety essentials as he announced a borough-wide fire safety education campaign and called for the creation of a burn center in Brooklyn. On the right, Borough President Adams demonstrated FireSonar, a new companion app for smoke detectors, as part of his ongoing fire safety effort. Photo Credits: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

COMMUNITY ALERTS

Borough President Adams announced a borough-wide fire safety education campaign on Monday, March 23rd, following a fatal fire in Midwood that claimed the lives of seven siblings, aged five to 16, from the Sassoon family. Important tips include installing smoke alarms on every floor and within 15 feet of every sleeping area, staying in the kitchen while cooking and limiting distractions, never leaving burning candles unattended, and protecting electrical cords from damage; more information can be found at www.nyc.gov/fdny. He also called for the creation of a burn center in Brooklyn which, despite being home to the fourth-largest population in the United States, currently has no such facility; the Sassoon family's mother and one of her daughters were brought in critical condition to burn centers in the Bronx and Staten Island, respectively, after sustaining severe burns and smoke inhalation. Additionally, on Thursday, March 26th, Borough President Adams demonstrated FireSonar, a new companion app for smoke detectors that allows users to be remotely notified, wherever they are, if their home or a neighbor's may potentially be on fire; downloads are available at www.firesonar.com.

As part of his commitment to helping reduce the homelessness crisis facing Brooklyn and New York City, Borough President Adams hosted a presentation on Tuesday, March 24th at Brooklyn Borough Hall by the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) on reforms to the agency's Homebase and Living in Communities (LINC) programs to local elected officials, landlords, real estate agents, and brokers. For households on the brink of homelessness, Homebase provides access to an extensive network of neighborhood-based services to help them remain in their communities; customized housing assistance plans include eviction prevention mediation, short-term emergency funding, financial counseling and household budgeting, as well as assistance in obtaining employment and public benefits. LINC Rental Assistance programs were created to help move families out of shelter and into stable housing. For more on either of these programs, visit www.nyc.gov/dhs.

The first home that Borough President Adams owned was a co-op, and he wants to make more Brooklynites aware of this important option for homeownership. On Tuesday, March 24th, he joined with the Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union and Urban Homesteading

Assistance Board (UHAB) to host a co-op ownership workshop at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Statistics indicate that the homeownership rate for Kings County is 29.63%, compared to the State of New York, which is 53.65%. In a housing co-op, a cooperative corporation owns the building, and the residents own shares in the cooperative corporation. Resident shareholders receive a proprietary lease for their apartment and pay monthly maintenance charges for shared expenses. UHAB, a non-profit organization that is contracted by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), has a model that focuses on principles like self-help, where residents take the lead on managing and preserving their co-ops, shared equity ownership, and cost-effective sustainability; those interested in learning more can visit www.uhab.org.



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

The problem of illegal conversions and cubicle living has persisted for at least four decades in New York City. Cubicle living occurs when a property owner, usually in a one to three-family home, takes a house or apartment and subdivides it into several tiny living spaces. They are often in basements, always in violation of existing building and fire codes, are considered extraordinarily dangerous due to the fact that they lack proper ingress/egress and generally have unlawful and dangerous electrical wiring. On Sunday, March 8th, Borough President Adams joined Council Members Vincent Gentile and Jumaane D. Williams to announce legislation, introduced at his request, to combat illegal home conversions. The components of this bill will make the reporting and enforcement of illegal conversions easier, while also protecting housing opportunities for tenants currently living in unsafe conditions.

Borough President Adams maintains a Mitchell-Lama Task Force, which hosted a legislative summit on Thursday, March 12th at Brooklyn Borough Hall to discuss pending

legislation affecting the preservation of affordable housing. They focused on the Urstadt Law as it relates to vacancy decontrol, rent regulations and the 421-A tax abatement. Created in 1955, the Mitchell-Lama program provides affordable rental and cooperative housing to moderate- and middle-income families. The housing is made up of income-restricted rentals and limited equity co-ops. Rents are tied to a tenant's income, and co-op prices are set so that buyers pay an equity value, which they get back when they sell. In exchange for keeping units affordable, builders receive tax breaks and low-interest mortgages. The number of Mitchell-Lama apartments has dropped in recent years, due to the fact that buildings can exit the program; Borough President Adams continues to work with the Task Force in an effort to preserve and expand this housing stock.

On Thursday, March 19th, Borough President Adams announced a borough-wide challenge to tackle the borough's consumer debt crisis at the launch of his second annual Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment

Month, which he officially proclaimed for the month of April. Joined by partner organizations from the financial, grassroots and small business communities, he showed data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that shows the severity of the problem in Brooklyn, comparatively to the rest of the city, state, and nation; for example, the amount of debt overall that Brooklyn is carrying 90 days or more past due is more than twice that of the entire nation. Based on those statistics, he unveiled his aggressive goal for reducing Brooklyn's credit card delinquency by four percent in four years, which would bring that metric just below the national average. Borough President Adams also discussed initial steps on how the borough can achieve his call to action, including an education campaign targeting at-risk groups, such as small businesses, youth, and seniors; he emphasized a 2013 report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau showing that only one dollar is spent on financial education for every twenty-seven dollars that are spent on consumer marketing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take part in Borough President Adams' second annual **Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment Month**, which is filled with events to inform and engage Brooklynites of all ages and backgrounds on money matters, especially tackling consumer debt. Currently scheduled events include **Survive to Thrive**, a series of financial education workshops taking place on **Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall; **A Small Business Grows in Brooklyn**, taking place on **Thursday, April 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall; **Women & Wealth**, taking place on **Thursday, April 23rd from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall; **Brooklyn's Financial Empowerment Day**, taking place on **Wednesday, April 29th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM** and from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall; and **Securing Brooklyn's Seniors**, with sessions taking place on **Thursday, May 14th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at the YWCA Brooklyn, located at 30 3rd Avenue, and on **Friday, May 15th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Borough President Adams invites all to come let their voice be heard at one of his upcoming **town halls** about improving police-community relations.

Currently scheduled dates include **Monday, April 13th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at **New Lots Library**, located at 665 New Lots Avenue, and **Thursday, April 23rd from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at **Woodhull Medical Center**, located at 760 Broadway.

Join Borough President Adams and Parent-Child Home Program for an **early childhood development forum** on **Wednesday, April 15th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall. There will be discussions on the importance of early childhood education, specifically between the ages of 0-3, to ensure that children achieve their greatest potential in school and in life.

Did you receive a lien sale warning? Do you have a tax lien on your home? Borough President Adams and Brooklyn's City Council delegation invite you to meet with representatives of the New York City Departments of Finance, Environmental Protection, and Housing Preservation and Development on **Wednesday, April 15th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Take the "A" train - or any other mode of transportation - to Brooklyn Borough Hall on **Wednesday, April 22nd from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM** to apply for a

reduced-fare Metrocard. New York City Transit representatives will be on hand to assist seniors and those with qualifying disabilities to obtain this important service.

Do you know a graduating high school senior in financial need and in good academic standing? Join Borough President Adams, along with Council Members Robert Cornegy, Jr. and Laurie Cumbo, at a **prom dress and men's formal wear giveaway** on **Saturday, April 25th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The prom wear is available on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last, thanks to **Operation PROM**.

Jazz it up with Borough President Adams on **Thursday, April 30th from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM** for a livestream viewing of International Jazz Day, an all-star global concert in Paris. Following the concert, guests and Brooklyn jazz enthusiasts are welcome to mingle as well as provide information on upcoming jazz performances and special events.

If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by e-mailing askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov