



Borough President Adams shouted a cheer with the little leaguers from the 68th Precinct Youth Council on Opening Day at Frank Schnurr Field in Bay Ridge. Photo Credit: Eric L. Adams/Brooklyn BP's Office



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



## WHAT'S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

**On Tuesday, April 7th, Borough President Adams hosted his second annual Garifuna heritage event** in the courtroom of Borough Hall, in conjunction with Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. and HealthFirst. Guests celebrated the culture of the Garifuna, descendants of West African, Central African, Carib, and Arawak people, with entertainment and food from the regions. Today, the Garifuna live primarily in Central America, along the Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

**Play ball! Little league baseball kicked off for many of Brooklyn's young sluggers** on Saturday, April 11th at ballfields across the borough, and Borough President Adams traveled around to cheer them on

toward a great season ahead. Stops on his tour included the 68th Precinct Youth Council in Bay Ridge and the Bonnie Youth Club in Flatbush.

**Borough President Adams hosted a mission of elected officials and political leaders from Johannesburg** at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, April 13th to share best practices in municipal governance and to build the foundation for potential future partnerships between the borough and South Africa's largest city.

**The 62nd observance of Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day**, was observed on Thursday, April 16th. Borough President Adams marked the solemn occasion

with several events, including viewing a play performed by survivors and students of Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School as well as attending the annual memorial at Holocaust Memorial Park in Sheepshead Bay.

**Let's go Nets! Borough President Adams, joined by Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce CEO Carlo Scisura, challenged Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed** on Friday, April 17th to a bet over the playoff series between the Brooklyn Nets and the Atlanta Hawks. The hated Hawks advanced despite the Nets playing valiant basketball, so the ATL will enjoy a basket of Brooklyn-made products as a result; there are no real losers here!

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Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams greets a fellow cyclist as he led local leaders and dozens of Brooklynites on a group bike ride to work from Grand Army Plaza to Brooklyn Borough Hall, highlighting the importance of eco-friendly travel during his celebration of Earth Day. Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

## Happy Earth Week, Brooklyn!

Borough President Adams had a series of eco-focused programs aimed at reducing waste, shrinking the borough's carbon footprint, and raising recycling efforts, highlighted by a bike-to-work event he held on Wednesday, April 22nd from Grand Army Plaza to Brooklyn Borough Hall. Other events included his second annual Stop 'N' Swap® with GrowNYC on Thursday, April 23rd and his Operation PROM giveaway on Saturday, April 25th.

**As a 22-year veteran of the NYPD, Borough President Adams knows**

**the importance of building community-police relations.** He honored all of Brooklyn's community affairs officers in a ceremony, attended by NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, April 27th.

**Soccer fever hit Brooklyn on Tuesday, April 28th, as Borough President Adams welcomed the legendary New York Cosmos** in advance of their first-ever match in the borough, played against Ottawa Fury

FC at MCU Park in Coney Island. He kicked the ball around with players at Brooklyn Bridge Park and gave them a pep talk in advance of their kickoff.

**Brooklyn Borough Hall got jazzy for International Jazz Day** on Thursday, April 30th, as Borough President Adams hosted a viewing party of the 2015 All-Star Global Concert, featuring a cast of internationally renowned jazz artists streamed live from UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



Borough President Adams kicked around a soccer ball with Carlos Mendes of the New York Cosmos at Brooklyn Bridge Park as he welcomed the team to Brooklyn for their first-ever match in the borough.

Photo Credit: Eric L. Adams/Brooklyn BP's Office



Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams shows local seniors the impact of proposed sidewalk extensions with a street chalk outline at a press conference to launch CROSS (Connecting Residents on Safer Streets) Brooklyn, his new initiative to improve street safety for the borough's vulnerable pedestrians; the event was held outside the AMICO Senior Citizens Center in Borough Park.

Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

## COMMUNITY ALERTS

**When property taxes, water bills, and other charges against property are unpaid**, these unpaid charges become tax liens that may be sold in a tax lien sale. Those who received a lien sale warning or had a tax lien on their home were invited by Borough President Adams to meet with representatives of the New York City Departments of Finance, Environmental Protection, and Housing Preservation and Development on Wednesday, April 15th at Brooklyn Borough Hall. At least four notices are sent before liens are sold, informing about the sale and advising to pay debt(s) so that the lien is not sold. The last day to pay debt or enter into a payment agreement is Thursday, May 14th; the lien sale will take place the following day. Visit [www.nyc.gov/finance](http://www.nyc.gov/finance)

with any property tax issues, [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) regarding water and sewer charges, or [www.nyc.gov/hpd](http://www.nyc.gov/hpd) for emergency repair and alternative enforcement charges.

**In 2014, over 15,000 cases were investigated of child abuse or neglect by the New York City Administration for Children's Services.** April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and Borough President Adams showed his appreciation for the hardworking individuals and organizations that have surpassed job expectations to achieve positive outcomes for children and families at his Brooklyn Cares Awards on Tuesday, April 28th in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Every child deserves to be safe. If anyone suspects

child abuse or neglect, they should call the State Central Register at (800) 342-3720, or call 311 and ask to be connected to the hotline; all calls are confidential. Those that want to learn more about child abuse and neglect, including potential danger signs, should visit [www.nyc.gov/acs](http://www.nyc.gov/acs).



**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

**Community Education Councils (CECs) are charged with promoting student achievement,** advising and commenting on educational policies, and providing input to the Chancellor and the Panel for Educational Policy on matters of concern to the district. On Tuesday, April 14th, Borough President Adams joined State Senator Jesse Hamilton and Assembly Member Walter Mosley in announcing a legislative effort designed to engage and empower parents of the over 50,000 children in New York City's pre-K programs, allowing them to run for a seat on a CEC. The plan is designed to allow parents an earlier opportunity to engage with the New York City Department of Education and to have a stronger voice in the city's education policy.

**On Thursday, April 16th, Borough President Adams rallied with hundreds of Brooklynites outside Brooklyn Borough Hall for Family Friendly Brooklyn,** his new initiative focusing on the wellness of the borough's large number of families with young children. According to the United States Census, there are roughly 200,000 Brooklynites

under the age of five, a figure higher than the New York State average. He unveiled his plans for a public lactation room in Brooklyn Borough Hall, the largest City building to host such a space, and for working with legislators to have public breastfeeding zones established in City-owned and State-owned buildings. Family Friendly Brooklyn also calls for funding for the mental health screening of new mothers, addressing the complications of postpartum depression and anxiety, as well as the passage of the Paid Family Leave Act, legislation which is currently pending in the State Legislature.

**According to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, people aged 60 years and older comprised 42.7% of Brooklyn's 473 pedestrians killed in the ten years from 2003 through 2012,** though they made up only 16.2% of the population. Borough President Adams addressed this issue outside the AMICO Senior Citizens Center in Borough Park on Tuesday, April 21st as he announced CROSS (Connecting Residents on Safer Streets) Brooklyn, his new initiative to improve

street safety for the borough's vulnerable pedestrians. The effort includes a commitment of \$1 million in capital funding from Brooklyn Borough Hall in Fiscal Year 2016 to construct sidewalk extensions, known as "bulb-outs" or "neck-downs", at intersections determined to be dangerous, based on crash data from the New York City Department of Transportation.

**In a New York Daily News op-ed titled "Locking Up New York's Future"** on Thursday, April 30th, Borough President Adams made the case for securing the gains of broken-windows policing without ruining people's lives through unnecessary warrants for certain quality-of-life offenses. His call for summons reform, made as the New York City Council considers a similar proposal, was made on the basis of justice and of public safety, such as to prevent criminalizing normally law-abiding citizens with unnecessary warrants and destroying their futures.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**All lives matter. On Monday, May 4th at 6:00 PM,** Borough President Adams is co-hosting an interactive discussion on criminal justice reform, held at the St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, located at **260 Eastern Parkway.**

**Beginning Wednesday, May 13th, and continuing for the following five Wednesdays,** Borough President Adams is presenting his **School Lunchtime Concert Series,** in collaboration with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. The concerts will all be performed by local youth in Willoughby Plaza, located at the corner of Willoughby Street and Pearl Street.

Are you looking for a job? **Brooklyn Job Fair 2015** will be hosted by Borough President Adams, in partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, on **Wednesday, May 13th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall.** Bring resumes and apply for positions at some of New York City's major businesses.

**May is Older Americans Month,** which Borough President Adams is using to reach out to seniors on financial education empowerment, a signature issue of his administration. He will hold **Securing Brooklyn's Seniors 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. Additionally, the Office of the State Comptroller will attend these seminars to help Brooklynites search for unclaimed funds.

Poets are welcome at Brooklyn Borough Hall! Borough President Adams, along with Green Earth Poets Café, is holding an **Open Mic Night of Spoken Word Poetry at the People's House on Friday, May 15th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.**

Be prepared for any disaster. **On Saturday, May 16th at 11:00 AM,** Borough President Adams is partnering with Governor Andrew Cuomo for the New York State **Citizen Preparedness Training Program** in the Founder's Auditorium at Medgar Evers College, located at 1650 Bedford Avenue.

Borough President Adams wants youth to join Brooklyn's community boards! **The Youth Participation on Community Board Boot Camp** he is holding with the Youth Council on Community Engagement will be on **Saturday, May 16th** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

If you have a son or daughter with special needs, become informed on the services available to you and your child. Borough President Adams is presenting **Road Mapping for Parents of Children with Special Needs on Thursday, May 21st at 6:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Take the "A" train - or any other mode of transportation - to Brooklyn Borough Hall on **Wednesday, May 27th 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.

In partnership with Legal Services NYC and the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Borough President Adams will offer **free legal services in Room G-80 of Brooklyn Borough Hall starting on Wednesday, May 27th.** Foreclosure intervention and prevention assistance will be available on the second Wednesday of every month between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM, while housing matters and elder law will be handled on Thursdays between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Please call (718) 802-3777 to make an appointment; the last available slot each day is 4:15 PM.

**Build better PTAs with Borough President Adams on Thursday, May 28th** at Brooklyn Borough Hall from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, where he will thank parents for their service to Brooklyn's schools and invite all to share ideas on advancing parent engagement, fundraising, and Title I parent involvement.

**Celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month** with Borough President Adams on **Friday, May 29th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall. There will be music, traditional dance, and other cultural experiences.

**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).**