

Borough President Adams took a break from marching in the Twilight Parade, hosted annually by Brooklyn Pride as a celebration of the LGBTQ community, to sit down with young Brooklynites along the parade route on 5th Avenue in Park Slope. 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?

Happy Brooklyn Day! Borough President Adams celebrated with hundreds of local youth at his free celebration in Canarsie Park on Thursday, June 4th to encourage physical fitness and healthy play, particularly as families prepare for the summer season. 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.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the congressional adop-

tion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Borough President Adams celebrated the culture of the region throughout June at Brooklyn Borough Hall, starting with a lunchtime film on Friday, June 5th. Additional events included an expo of Caribbean-American businesses and a Taste & Tour of the Caribbean on Friday, June 12th, as well as a networking mixer and symposium on Thursday, June 18th.

Borough President Adams was full of "pride" in his celebration of Brooklyn's LGBTQ community this month, especially with the Supreme Court's ruling that made

same-sex marriage a nationwide right. On Monday, June 8th, he hosted a ceremony to raise the rainbow pride flag over Brooklyn Borough Hall as well as a reception to honor leaders in the LGBTQ community. He also had the pleasure of marching in several pride parades, including the twilight parade in Park Slope on Saturday, June 13th.

For the second straight year, Borough President Adams is hosting a series of blood drives at Brooklyn Borough Hall with the American Red Cross and Music Brings Life. Last year, 75 potential lives were

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Caption: Borough President Adams rallied organizers and supporters of the first annual Sunset Park Puerto Rican Day Parade as they prepared to march down 5th Avenue. Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office



Borough President Adams tossed out the ceremonial first pitch at the Brooklyn Cyclones' opening day game at MCU Park in Coney Island against the archrival Staten Island Yankees. Photo Credit: George Napolitano

saved as a result of people's charity, and the goal this year is to collect 100 units of blood. The first day of donations was on Wednesday, June 10th, with additional dates scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st and Wednesday, August 5th.

The latest Heroes of the Month were named by Borough President Adams on Thursday, June 11th at a ceremony in Brooklyn Borough Hall. NYPD Officer James Li, who was shot in the line of duty in Crown Heights, and NYPD Officer James Chow, Officer Li's former partner that helped apprehend the fare-beating suspect, were declared "Heroes of the Month" for May in honor of their valiant actions. Richard and Rosa Stakofsky, a married couple who own an ice cream shop in Bath Beach and give away cones to the less fortunate, earned the title of "Heroes of the Month" for June for their philanthropic efforts.

¡Que viva la cultura Puertorriqueña! Borough President Adams was honored to march down 5th Avenue in the first Sunset Park Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday, June 14th, which was attended by thousands of people. As of the 2010 census, seven percent of Brooklyn is Puerto Rican by descent.

Southern Brooklyn is home to a large and growing Russian-American population, with the country's largest Russian-speaking community being in and around Brighton Beach. On Monday, June 15th, Borough President Adams joined with the Russian-American Federation to host a reception at Brooklyn Borough Hall recognizing the community's rich culture and local leaders.

On Saturday, June 20th, Borough President Adams threw out the ceremonial first pitch at opening day for the Brooklyn Cyclones. The ceremony, which was held jointly with the family of fallen NYPD Detective Wenjian Liu, took place before the game at MCU Park in Coney Island against the rival Staten Island Yankees.

Brooklyn stood as one on Sunday, June 21st outside Barclays Center in memory of the victims of a terrorist attack just days earlier at the Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Borough President Adams and civil rights attorney Norman Siegel held a candlelight vigil with hundreds of mourners to remember the nine innocent

lives that were lost, while the arena's exterior oculus display showed a message reading "#StandWithCharleston".

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! Borough President Adams crisscrossed the borough in June to attend graduations at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges, offering advice in his remarks. On Monday, June 29th, he held a graduation reception for the borough's valedictorians and salutatorians, as well as winners of the Borough President's Award. He invites all graduates and their families to visit brooklyn-usa.org/brooklyn-virtual-yearbook to post photos and messages of inspiration.

Borough President Adams is committed to advancing the financial education of all Brooklynites. On Tuesday, June 30th, he hosted a Men and Money seminar at Brooklyn Borough Hall in partnership with Capital One Bank and World Financial Group. Efforts like these work toward his goal of reducing Brooklyn's credit card delinquency by four percent in the next four years.



Borough President Adams held a reception at Brooklyn Borough Hall to honor the academic achievements of top achievers, including valedictorians and salutatorians students ranging from elementary school to college, from the Class of 2015. Photo Credit: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP's Office

COMMUNITY ALERTS

On Thursday, June 18th, Borough President Adams was pleased to join Mayor Bill de Blasio in announcing the permanent closure of West Drive in Prospect Park to car traffic. The road, stretching between Grand Army Plaza and Park Circle, was previously open to motor vehicles for two hours during weekday afternoons. With this change, which took effect as of Monday, July 6th, the park is more car-free and reserved solely for recreation than at any time since the first automobiles were introduced to them at the turn of the 20th century. Anyone seeking additional information on Prospect Park can visit prospectpark.org.

There are over a quarter of a million open warrants in Brooklyn for low-level summonsable offenses. Borough President Adams believes that quality-of-life disturbances need to be addressed, but that a person arrested for failing to

pay a summons at the age of 18 should not become unemployable at 21 due to an arrest based on a summons warrant. As such, he urged affected Brooklynites to take advantage of Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson's Begin Again initiative, which launched at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Clinton Hill on Friday, June 19th and Saturday, June 20th. The effort, which will be replicated in locations across the borough, is an inter-agency partnership that helps individuals clear old, open warrants. Those seeking more details should visit brooklynda.org.

The 5@55 national education campaign was launched at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, June 22nd, aimed to encourage people in their pre-retirement years to get their legal houses in order. It is being supported by lawyers from around the country, based on a book written by Judith D.

Grimaldi and Joanne Seminara, elder care attorneys based in Bay Ridge. Borough President Adams is proud to support the effort for all 55-year-olds to have a will, a health care proxy, a living will, a power of attorney, and a digital diary in place so that if catastrophe strikes, their wishes can still be carried out. Their step-by-step guide is available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other places where books are sold.



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

\$100 million in State funding for critical New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) roof repairs was redesignated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to fund legislators' pet projects such as landscaping and playgrounds. Five NYCHA developments in Brooklyn are set to lose out on support as a result of this decision, including Borinquen Plaza I and Borinquen Plaza II in Williamsburg, Langston Hughes Houses and Samuel J. Tilden Houses in Brownsville, and Bernard Haber Houses, a senior citizen development in Coney Island. On Monday, June 1st, Borough President Adams stood atop a damaged roof at Borinquen Plaza II to highlight the health and safety hazards for residents and to urge Governor Cuomo to restore funding. Reports have shown that substandard roofs lead to damaging leaks and toxic mold growth in residents' apartments, as well as more strained boilers and greater building emissions due to poor insulation.

Borough President Adams delivered a major policy address on Friday, June 5th at a breakfast for the Association for a Better New York (ABNY), a non-profit coalition of business, labor, non-profit and political leaders representing more than 300 member organizations. In his speech at the New York Marriott Marquis in the Theater District, he laid out a vision for improving public safety, advancing technology in education, developing affordable housing, and supporting economic growth. Key ideas included expanding police exam access, making public school building spaces affordable, advancing local hiring incentives in affordable housing construction, and encouraging disruptive industry growth.

Addressing Brooklyn's affordable housing crisis is a top priority for Borough President Adams, as evidenced by his efforts throughout June. On Monday, June 8th, he and civil rights attorney Norman Siegel detailed a series of upcoming town halls to investigate

cases of tenant harassment throughout Brooklyn, with the aim of determining the potential for lawsuits against particularly bad-acting landlords taking advantage of the borough-wide emergency; the announcement noted that tenant harassment complaints in Housing Court have nearly doubled since 2011. Borough President Adams also engaged in a vigorous public fight to strengthen the city's rent regulations; in addition to sponsoring a bus filled with tenant advocates, largely comprised of members of his Mitchell-Lama Task Force, that traveled to Albany on Tuesday, June 9th to lobby State legislators, he organized an all-night sleep-in protest outside Governor Cuomo's Manhattan offices on Wednesday, June 17th to urge for greater leadership. In addition, Borough President Adams testified at a Rent Guidelines Board hearing at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, June 18th on the need to freeze rent increases, a call that proved successful as per their ultimate decision.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In partnership with the Brooklyn branch of Legal Services NYC and the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, Borough President Adams offers 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.

Borough President Adams encourages all to come out to his **public hearing on financial education on Wednesday, July 8th** from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. He wants to hear from Brooklynites directly about issues affecting their financial health.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is turning 25 this month! To commemorate the anniversary, the **ADA Legacy Tour is rolling to Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, July 14th** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to raise awareness.

Attend one of Borough President Adams' tenant harassment hearings, taking place on Tuesday, July 14th at Brooklyn Borough Hall, Thursday, July 16th at All Saints Church, located at 115 Throop Avenue, or Tuesday, July 28th at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, located at 450 Clarkson Avenue. All town halls are from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Enjoy "A Summer Movie Under the Stars" with Borough President Adams. For four straight Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, starting on July 22nd, there will be free entertainment at Long Meadow North in Prospect Park. Screened movies will include E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Where the Wild Things Are, The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1, and Happy Feet.

On Tuesday, July 28th, Borough President Adams will host Cut the Salt, Curb the Sugar Brooklyn!, a healthy living expo in Columbus Park from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be healthy cooking demonstrations by Brook-

lyn chefs, nutrition education, blood pressure screenings, and more. Pick up complimentary "Health Bucks" to use at the Borough Hall Farmers Market and free copies of Borough President Adams' healthy recipe book, while supplies last!

Save the date for the 2nd annual International Day of Friendship! On Sunday, August 2nd, Borough President Adams will host free family-friendly fun from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall and Cadman Plaza Park to celebrate the borough's rich diversity. Events will include a unity parade, cultural performances, and a taste of continental cuisine.

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