

## LATEST INITIATIVES

At a hearing at Brooklyn Borough Hall on the proposed East New York Community Plan on Wednesday, January 6th, Borough President Adams presented his recommendations to disapprove with conditions of the rezoning of approximately 200 blocks in Cypress Hills, East New York, and Ocean Hill, based on months of dialogue with community residents, activists, and local elected officials. He expressed that while he is “generally supportive of the plan’s intent,” his response needed to make clear concerns raised through the public review process as well as to set a new standard for community redevelopment, working with City Hall and local stakeholders in partnership. He recommended a number of measures to ensure the proposal could achieve a meaningful creation and preservation of affordable housing, including greater resources to combat resident displacement as well as increased efforts to build very-low and low-income units on previously unstudied lots. Additionally, Borough President Adams’s recommendations addressed the need to document the City’s commitment to the holistic community development outlined in their plan, including the establishment of a post-approval follow-up body with local representation.

On Tuesday, January 12th, Borough President Adams announced the results of a cost analysis for reinstating free tuition at two-year community colleges in the City University of New York (CUNY), findings that indicated the potential to

improve graduation rates, increase earnings potential for graduates, and subsequently raise taxpayer contributions, as well as expand access to higher education. The report, completed by the Independent Budget Office of New York City at Borough President Adams’s request, found that eliminating tuition for CUNY’s community colleges, including Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach, would cost the City \$3,456 per student per year. Based on this study, including its attention to the impact of Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), which offer free tuition with support services such as tutoring, career services, and assistance with transportation and the cost of textbooks, he urged the CUNY Board of Trustees to examine the feasibility of free tuition for community college students as well as the expansion of ASAP.

“The viability of ethnic media outlets is critical to the overall health of New York City’s press landscape.” Borough President Adams testified to this, in response to the continued difficulties facing community-based ethnic media in New York City, at a New York City Council hearing held on Wednesday, January 27th. In conjunction with that testimony, he jointly released an analysis, conducted in partnership with City Comptroller Scott Stringer, which studied City advertising contracts and the degree to which City agencies leverage ethnic media outlets. Amongst its findings the report found that only 12.7 percent

of City funding for advertising was dedicated to ethnic media over the course of the past three fiscal years. Borough President Adams recommended that the City Council mandate quarterly reporting from each City agency with an advertising budget on how much of their dollars are going to ethnic media, creating an CompStat-type system for City advertising.

Borough President Adams led a coalition of local elected officials on Friday, January 29th to call on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) to initiate a pilot program for the proposed “Freedom Ticket,” which would allow commuters to pay a single fare for travel within New York City on MTA subways and LIRR trains. The plan would include trips between the Atlantic Terminal and East New York stations on the LIRR’s Atlantic Branch, inclusive of the Nostrand Avenue station. In their letter to MTA Chair Thomas Prendergast, Borough President Adams and others explained that the proposal, developed by the New York City Transit Riders Council, should be piloted in Brooklyn to help reduce costs and expand transit options for riders who live and work along the Atlantic Branch corridor, a population that may be expanding pending the City’s proposed East New York Community Plan and will be impacted by service disruptions resulting from planned repairs to the L train’s Canarsie Tube.

Borough President Adams addressed a town hall with Mayor Bill de Blasio at Wyckoff Gardens in Boerum Hill to discuss the critical importance of investing in the borough’s NYCHA developments.

Photo Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office



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



## WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

Borough President Adams, an NYPD veteran and staunch anti-gun violence advocate, was honored that CNN invited him to represent Brooklyn at a national town hall with President Barack Obama on “Guns in America.” He used the opportunity on Thursday, January 7th at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, to advocate for advancements in gun safety technology from the public and private sectors. The trip also included a visit to Capitol Hill to discuss gun violence and Brooklyn priorities with Representatives Dan Donovan, Carolyn Maloney, and Nydia Velázquez.

At the sixth annual Interfaith Memorial Service for the victims of the 2010 Haitian earthquake on Friday, January 8th, Borough President Adams joined with the International

Humanitarian Outreach Ministries, Inc., members of the clergy, community leaders, and victims’ families to pray for Haiti and members of the Haitian Diaspora, during which time prayers were offered for the victims of the earthquake and their families. As one of the evening’s guest speakers, he pledged his continued support for the island’s ongoing recovery.

¡Feliz Día de los Tres Reyes Magos! On Sunday, January 10th, Borough President Adams marched down Graham Avenue (also known as Avenue of Puerto Rico) in Williamsburg with the borough’s Latino community in celebration of the Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade. Costumed dancers and public school marching bands were featured in the festivities.

Borough President Adams is focused on building the digital classroom of tomorrow in the Brooklyn of today. To further that vision, he hosted a digital resource fair at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, January 11th for educators throughout the borough. Attendees learned about the Textbook Choice initiative, which supports the introduction of tablet and laptop computers in public schools, and participated in demonstrations that showcased the integration of digital devices into the curriculum. Borough President Adams also used the opportunity to celebrate Brooklyn’s resounding victory over Chicago in his Hour of Code challenge; more than 80 percent of the borough’s public school students participated in classroom coding activities last December.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80  
Access to Legal Service – Foreclosure  
Intervention/Prevention Services

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room  
Brooklyn Crochets for a Cause!

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80  
Access to Legal Service – Elder Law/Housing  
Law/Pension Law Services

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND**  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room  
Brooklyn Borough Board Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courtroom  
Notice of Property Value Workshop

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**  
9:00 AM-11:00 AM

145 South 3rd Street  
Thrive NYC Brooklyn Info Session

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**  
11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
Golden Couples Celebration

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH**  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room  
Youth Organization Capacity Building

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**  
2:00 PM-5:00 PM (Professionals)  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM (Community)

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
Brooklyn Mental Health Summit

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

158 Buffalo Avenue  
A Walk In History Clergy Tour & Breakfast

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**  
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
Black History Month Celebration

If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by visiting [brooklyn-usa.org](http://brooklyn-usa.org) for more information or by calling our event hotline at (718) 802-2328. 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’s paperless notifications, like his Facebook page, and follow @BPEricAdams on Twitter.



Borough President Adams greeted young people taking part in the Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade, a nineteen-year cultural tradition on Graham Avenue in Williamsburg.

Photo Credit: Stefan Ringel/Brooklyn BP's Office



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Borough President Adams met with former Representative Gabrielle Giffords, a gun violence survivor, and her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, as they participated in a national town hall with President Barack Obama on "Guns in America" at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; as part of the trip, he also visited Capitol Hill to meet with congressional leaders like Representative Dan Donovan.

Photo Credit: Stefan Ringel/Brooklyn BP's Office



**On Monday, January 11th, Borough President Adams participated in Mayor Bill de Blasio's town hall at Wyckoff Gardens in Boerum Hill, where he spoke to hundreds of residents about the critical importance of investing in the borough's New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. The forum addressed the City's NextGeneration NYCHA plan, local building repair needs, as well as ideas on improving public safety and quality of life in the community.**

**At a labor rally on Tuesday, January 12th in Fort Greene, Borough President Adams joined members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 2013 who work at Cumberland Packing Company to protest a decision by the company, which produces the artificial sweetener Sweet'N Low, to outsource their jobs. He called it "unacceptable" for the company, which has received City and State subsidies, to turn its back on the taxpayers who made its growth possible.**

**Silver is the new green!** On Wednesday, January 13th, Borough President Adams celebrated the LEED Silver certification achieved by the BRIC Arts | Media

House and UrbanGlass building in Fort Greene. The space, which provides 60,000 square feet for performances, exhibitions, television production, and art studios, was designed to minimize the consumption of natural resources in construction, reduce demand for water and electricity, as well as offer artists and visitors a healthier indoor environment.

**On Friday, January 15th, Borough President Adams joined a picket line in Cobble Hill** with members of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the New York State Nurses Association to call on Fresenius Medical Care to strike a fair deal with its employees. He expressed his staunch opposition to the company's threat of cutbacks to workers who are responsible for assisting dialysis patients.

**Honoring the proud legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,** Borough President Adams organized the 30th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to the civil right leader on Monday, January 18th at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in Fort Greene. He used the event, which featured keynote speaker Michael

Eric Dyson as well as performances by Kimberly Nicole and the Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir, to spread a message on the importance of celebrating diversity in the face of radicalism.

**The Healthy Brooklyn Resource Fair,** hosted by Borough President Adams at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, January 19th, gave visitors an opportunity to enroll in an affordable health insurance plan with New York State of Health, enjoy healthy snacks, learn yoga and meditation techniques, as well as access biometric screenings, dental screenings, and heart disease risk assessments.

**Safe travels in Brooklyn!** Borough President Adams joined with Council Member Laurie Cumbo and others to host a Street Safety Town Hall at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene on Tuesday, January 26th. Community residents had a conversation with elected officials, traffic safety advocates, and the New York City Department of Transportation about protecting families and children on the streets of Brooklyn.

**In recent weeks, raids conducted nationwide by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have targeted refugees from Central American countries, causing widespread fear among immigrants and creating concerns over an impending humanitarian crisis. To date, there have been no confirmed reports of immigration arrests of this kind in the region, and City officials have emphasized that immigrant families have rights, including to education, emergency food and shelter, legal services, and municipal identification. On Sunday, January 10th, Borough President Adams and Representative Nydia Velázquez formed a coalition of elected officials, community activists, and clergy members to raise their voices in opposition to the ICE raids and to support the families who are threatened with deportation. He and his staff have distributed "know your rights" information to residents in Cypress Hills, Sunset Park, and Williamsburg, and are asking immigrants who are concerned to contact their elected officials or an advocate for immigrants if any problems occur. More information is available at [immigrantdefenseproject.org](http://immigrantdefenseproject.org).**

**Community boards are the most local representative bodies of government in New York City;** they are responsible for dealing with land use issues, assessing neighborhood needs, and addressing community concerns. Borough presidents are responsible for the appointment of each of their community board's 50 unsalaried members, half of whom are nominated by local members of the City Council. On Thursday, January 14th, Borough President Adams invited interested candidates to submit their application online for the first time in the borough's history. He also encouraged teenag-

## COMMUNITY ALERTS

ers to apply for membership; last year, he used his authority under a recently enacted state law to appoint teenagers to Community Boards 2, 3, 6, 9, 11, and 16. The application deadline for those interested in being appointed or re-appointed this year is Monday, February 15th. Applicants who wish to serve on a community board must be New York City residents; to qualify for a particular board, they must live, work in, or have a professional or other significant interest in that board's district. Applications for appointment and re-appointment for community boards are now available at [brooklyn-usa.org](http://brooklyn-usa.org).

**On Monday, January 25th, the enrollment period opened for free, full-day pre-kindergarten during the 2016-17 school year.** As a strong proponent of early childhood education, Borough President Adams is encouraging all parents who live in New York City and have a child born in 2012 to sign up. Pre-K For All runs five days per week from September to June. Most pre-k options are on a full-day schedule (six hours and 20 minutes); some five-hour and half-day (two hours and 30 minutes) options are also available. Applications are accepted in person at a Family Welcome Center, including the four locations maintained by the New York City Department of Education (DOE) in Bay Ridge, Fort Greene, Midwood, and Ocean Hill, in addition to online through the DOE's website or over the phone at (718) 935-2067. Interpretation services are available in more than 200 languages for over-the-phone and in-person application submissions. The deadline for applying is Friday, March 4th, and pre-K offer letters will be sent out in early May.

For more information, including a list of available programs, or to apply online, visit [schools.nyc.gov](http://schools.nyc.gov).

**Almost 225,000 people ride the L train between Brooklyn and Manhattan every weekday.** Unfortunately, to repair damage sustained during Superstorm Sandy, the MTA has announced that the Canarsie Tube, through which the train travels between the two boroughs, must close next year for as many as 40 months. Borough President Adams has joined with local elected officials to form a coalition and insist that the MTA fulfill its responsibility to connect people in impact neighborhoods with their city. On Thursday, January 28th, he co-hosted an initial forum for hundreds of small business owners and residents at Brooklyn Bowl in Williamsburg. In the coming months, he will pursue a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the disruption efforts for all riders who live and work near the subway line; initial proposals Borough President Adams is considering include a dedicated bus lane on the Williamsburg Bridge, enhanced bus and subway service to affected communities, as well as fast-tracked construction of protected bike infrastructure. Those interested in general subway information can visit [mta.info](http://mta.info).



**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.