

## LATEST INITIATIVES

**Borough President Adams joined Council Members Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., Laurie A. Cumbo, and Corey Johnson** on Friday, February 5th to introduce legislation that would require the City to create dedicated space for nursing moms in municipal government offices open to the public. Should Intro 1063-2016 become law, New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) job centers and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offices, New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) borough offices, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) facilities, and other public-facing locations associated with City agencies will be outfitted with private, non-bathroom spaces where mothers can relax and nurse their babies or pump milk. Borough President Adams opened a "lactation lounge" at Brooklyn Borough Hall last year to support the health of mothers and newborn children.

**On Wednesday, February 17th, Borough President Adams unveiled a joint effort with Medgar Evers College (MEC)** to expand the Brooklyn Pipeline at Medgar Evers College, which assists local students from disenfranchised communities in and around Central Brooklyn to succeed in college and careers. The program has already delivered enrichment and developmental learning opportuni-

ties to more than 1,000 public school students, taught hundreds of parents to better support their children's education, and facilitated professional development training to teachers and school leaders in partnership with more than 80 schools across the borough. To support the Pipeline, Borough President Adams has allocated more than \$3 million in capital grants to 14 participating schools, funding STEM educational infrastructure, and he has committed to dedicating additional capital dollars to Pipeline schools that apply for and have high need for STEM infrastructure. Since the launch of Pipeline programming in summer 2014, the percentage of MEC freshmen required to take remedial coursework has decreased to fewer than 68 percent.

**Borough President Adams released "A Decade Later in Downtown Brooklyn"** on Monday, February 22nd, a report analyzing the impact of the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, a rezoning initiated in 2004 by the Bloomberg Administration. The analysis shows that the rezoning, which was intended to reinforce the position of the neighborhood as a regional central business district and create jobs, has contributed to a dramatic increase in residential rather than commercial development, straining the capacity of currently existing infrastructure. Borough President Adams

recommended the City to consider a Zoning Text Amendment that will encourage the development of commercial properties in Downtown Brooklyn. He also called for the City to convene a task force that would revisit local infrastructure needs, including a fully built-out Brooklyn Strand, additional school seats and transit options, safer pedestrian and cycling connections, as well as improved access to health care facilities.

**Smart gun technology has been a major focus for Borough President Adams.** He raised the issue nationally during a recent trip to Capitol Hill, and on Tuesday, February 23rd, he announced an initiative to energize innovation in this emerging field, pledging \$1 million from his capital budget for a design competition that will advance existing research into building a safer gun. Several of Brooklyn's higher education institutions have agreed to participate, including the New York City College of Technology, New York University Tandon School of Engineering, and the Pratt Institute. In addition to partnering with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Borough President Adams has received support from the New York City Police Department on this effort, agreeing to have their range officers test this technology to determine the viability of smart gun innovations.

**Borough President Adams met some of the students at Small World Day Care Center in Williamsburg, guided by St. Nicks Alliance Executive Director Michael Rochford.**

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP's Office



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



## WHAT'S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

**Bon appétit!** Borough President Adams joined the New York City Economic Development Corporation and Dinner Lab on Wednesday, February 3rd in Bedford-Stuyvesant for the grand opening of Brooklyn FoodWorks, a shared kitchen and culinary incubator designed to provide affordable space for aspiring local food entrepreneurs to develop their businesses. Located in the former Pfizer manufacturing plant, the 10,000 square-foot facility will allow chefs access to commercial-grade cooking equipment for a wide variety of food production, as well as a co-working and classroom space for entrepreneurs to collaborate and learn skills. Borough President Adams's office contributed a total of \$1.3 million from its capital budget to build out the site and to develop programs in the next several years.

**Welcome to Brooklyn!** On Thursday, February 4th, Borough President Adams announced a revamped Brooklyn Tourism Visitors Center and Gift Shop in Brooklyn Borough Hall, where visitors will have access to information on what to do and see in the borough and an opportunity to purchase Brooklyn-Made products created by local artisans and small businesses. This interactive information hub, a partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and One Brooklyn Fund Inc., features iPad stations, historic photographs of Brooklyn landmarks, memorabilia related to the Brooklyn Dodgers and other important local institutions, and guides to places of interest throughout the borough.

**Borough President Adams sponsored a neighborhood meeting on February 9th**

at PS 133 William A. Butler to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the Key Food supermarket on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. Alongside other elected officials who represent the neighborhood, he made it clear that access to reasonably priced healthy food, such as fresh produce, is a community priority, stating that he wants to work toward ensuring the area maintains a large grocery store and affordable housing opportunities.

**Brooklyn is for lovers!** To honor the relationships that define the lives of many senior citizens, Borough President Adams hosted a catered reception at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Friday, February 12th, in advance of Valentine's

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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

### SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

2:00 PM-5:00 PM

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH

8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courtroom  
Brooklyn Information Session on the New York  
State Regional Council Process and Funding

### FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH

8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
Brooklyn Alzheimer's Conference

### MONDAY, MARCH 21ST

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courtroom  
Uniform Land Use Review  
Procedure Public Hearing

### TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH

9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall  
Women's History Month Celebration

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30TH

1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room  
All-in-One Resource Clinic

**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, sporting some Brooklyn gear, demonstrated one of the new tablet computer stations in the revamped Brooklyn Tourism Visitors Center and Gift Shop inside Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP's Office



Borough President Adams recognized Dr. Robert Gore, as well as animal activist Sean Casey and good Samaritan Jennifer Williams, as "Heroes of the Month" for January and February of 2016, respectively; the honorees were joined by their families and friends in the rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP's Office



Borough President Adams, wearing one of the baby carriers donated as part of his collection drive to aid refugee families with infants who are fleeing from violence in war-torn parts of the Middle East, spoke inside Brooklyn Borough Hall with BirthFocus Executive Director Elizabeth Mangum-Sarach.

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP's Office



Borough President Adams took a selfie with Joseph and Marion Broxton of Crown Heights, married 67 years, at his Golden Couples celebration in Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP's Office

Day, for Golden Couples who have been together more than 50 years. Hundreds of couples, representing more than 10,000 combined years of love, enjoyed lunch, jazz music and dancing, a photo booth, and a sparkling wine toast.

**To protect pedestrians and cyclists at Times Plaza in Fort Greene,** Borough President Adams participated in a rally on Saturday, February 13th with Transportation Alternatives, a non-profit organization that supports street safety initiatives such as Vision Zero. They urged the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to construct features such as curb extensions at the intersection of Atlantic, Flatbush, and Fourth avenues, which would contribute to Borough President Adams's CROSS (Connecting Residents on Safer Streets) Brooklyn initiative to redesign streetscapes for improved safety.

**Honoring the friendship between the United States and Israel,** Borough President Adams led a five-day mission beginning on Sunday, February 14th focused on developing transatlantic partnerships in public safety and economic development, traveling with an 11-person delegation of current and former NYPD officials as well as local community leaders. The visit, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Inc. (JCRC-NY),

included a visit to an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) base in the Golan Heights, a counter-terrorism briefing with intelligence officials in the Israeli National Security Council, a meeting with the chair of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and a tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

**On Tuesday, February 23rd, Borough President Adams announced Brooklyn's support for authorizing regulated, professional mixed martial arts (MMA),** the fourth-most popular sport in the United States, in New York State. He made the announcement at Barclays Center, one of the world's highest-grossing sports and entertainment venues, alongside Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment CEO Brett Yormark as well as former UFC middleweight champion and New York native Chris Weidman.

**#ShattertheStigma.** Borough President Adams hosted more than 350 people at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Wednesday, February 24th for "Promoting Mental Wellness in a Diverse Community: Brooklyn Mental Health Summit," a conference in which participants learned from health care experts and accessed critical wellness resources. The summit included a symposium in which medical professionals and health care providers discussed the effects of trauma in communities and coping strategies, as well as a community forum focused

on handling and understanding the effects of stress and anxiety.

**In recognition of Black History Month,** Borough President Adams held a clergy breakfast on Thursday, February 25th at Weeksville Heritage Center in Crown Heights, a museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 19th century community, which was among the first of free African-Americans in the United States. Later that day, hundreds joined him at Brooklyn Borough Hall for his Black History Month celebration as he honored the achievements of community leaders such as actor/activist Jamie Hector of Crown Heights and nine-year-old author Anaya Lee-Willabus of Mill Basin.

**Brooklyn's latest Heroes of the Month** were celebrated by Borough President Adams at a ceremony on Friday, February 26th in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Dr. Robert Gore, an emergency room doctor at Kings County Hospital Center in East Flatbush, was declared January's "Hero of the Month" for his dedication to ending gun violence through his mentoring program Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI). February's "Heroes of the Month" were good Samaritan Jennifer Williams and animal activist Sean Casey, who joined forces to rescue a malnourished dog in Prospect Park that was left chained to a tree.

**To date, the civil war in Syria has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced another four million people** in camps throughout the region. Borough President Adams has shown deep concern for the welfare of these impacted children and families, including by visiting refugees last December at a site in Turkey near the Syrian border. Furthering this commitment, Borough President Adams joined maternal health advocates and several local businesses at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, February 8th to launch a collection drive for baby carriers that will aid refugee families with infants who are fleeing from violence. In addition to Brooklyn Borough Hall, there are several small businesses collecting donations for soft-structured baby carriers with clasps or harnesses that are new or gently-used, including baby/mama in Bay Ridge, Copy Cottage in Boerum Hill, Clementine Bakery in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn Pharmacy in Cobble Hill, Wild Was Mama in Greenpoint, and Lulu's Then and Now in Park Slope. For more information, please visit [carrythefuture.org](http://carrythefuture.org).

**Build it Back has now raised more than 100 homes citywide,** started construction on 2,441, and finished construction on 1,496 — including 815 starts and 503 completes in Brooklyn. As the City continues to accelerate construction toward the goal of completing the program by the end of 2016, Borough President Adams is working with Council Member Mark Treyger, chair of the Committee on

## COMMUNITY ALERTS

Recovery and Resiliency, and Amy Peterson, director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery, on urging Brooklyn landlords to provide available apartments to Build it Back homeowners needing to temporarily relocate. In addition, Borough President Adams has mobilized his Brooklyn Resiliency Task Force and his Office of Faith-Based and Clergy Initiatives to find vacant units and secure housing for every family that has been temporarily displaced. Brooklyn landlords interested in helping can call Build it Back at (212) 615-8329; more information is available at [nyc.gov/builditback](http://nyc.gov/builditback).

**Borough President Adams and the Riders Alliance,** a grassroots transit advocacy organization, have launched a petition drive urging the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to offer a free out-of-station transfer between the Junius Street station on the 3 line and the Livonia Avenue station on the L line, stops that are within a block of each other but currently require two fares for a transfer. Last November, heeding the calls of Borough President Adams and local advocates, the MTA promised to fund a station connector, but there has been no commitment to eliminate the double fare before construction is scheduled to begin in 2018. On Thursday, February 11th, as they handed out palm cards and collected petition signatures during the morning rush hour in Brownsville, he made the case that the more than 5,400 riders a day who use these stations are being denied the same free out-of-station

transfer granted to riders on the Upper East Side. Those interested in signing the petition created by Borough President Adams and the Riders Alliance are encouraged to visit [ridersny.org/freetransfer](http://ridersny.org/freetransfer).

**Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which local residents directly decide how to spend part of a public budget,** popularized locally by the City Council. On Friday, February 12th, Borough President Adams became the first local elected official or agency head outside of the City Council to commit to PB, pledging to allocate \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) capital funding, apportioned equally to winning projects from the votes conducted by the 10 council members in Brooklyn who are participating in the process this year. Additionally, he will be opening Brooklyn Borough Hall as a universal voting site for Brooklynites living in participating council districts, working in partnership with Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's office. To learn more, please visit [council.nyc.gov/pb](http://council.nyc.gov/pb).

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**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.