Borough President Adams unveiled more than half a million dollars in new investments from Brooklyn Borough Hall’s Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) budget to advance public safety and community-police relations in the borough. He made the announcement on Tuesday, November 1st at the Brooklyn City Police Department (NYPD)’s 90th Precinct stationhouse in Williamsburg, home to an innovative partnership that offers mentorship and tutoring from police officers as an alternative to suspension for local students facing school disciplinary action; this program, NYC Together, will benefit from $37,000 in funding from Borough President Adams to outfit a multimedia learning center for kids inside the precinct. Borough President Adams, a 22-year veteran of the NYPD, also highlighted his continued investment in safeguarding neighborhoods across Brooklyn from crime, highlighting partnerships to expand security camera deployment and enhance safety measures at several sites in the borough. This included $250,000 to support a call center and enhance safety measures at several sites in the community, including the CityStorge site in Williamsburg, the remaining childhood center and the reconfiguration of the lobby to decrease the vulnerability of guests, members, and staff to outside threats.

Focused on preserving the ‘unique flavor’ of Brooklyn, Borough President Adams detailed more than $7.9 million in investment to arts and cultural institutions in the borough as part of his FY17 capital budget at an announcement on Monday, November 21st at the Billie Holiday Theatre in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The 45-year-old performing arts space at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, which was built to expose the community to the arts and employ local talent as well as world-renowned artists such as Debbie Allen and Samuel L. Jackson, will benefit from $200,000 in funding to support its first-ever major renovation. A variety of artistic and cultural spaces in Brooklyn Heights, Coney Island, Crown Heights, Fort Greene, Gowanus, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Williamsburg also received support, offering services ranging from family-friendly enrichment and historical presentation to collaborative engagement and cutting-edge expression.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, Borough President Adams celebrated the City’s acquisition of the CityStorge site in Williamsburg, the remaining parcel needed to complete Bushwick Inlet Park. Joining local elected officials and community activists, he had been actively engaged in the fight to preserve this important section of Brooklyn’s waterfront as open space to help residents raise healthy children and families. In the 2005 Waterfront Rezoning Agreement, which allowed high-density residential development in a part of Brooklyn that had previously been industrial, the City agreed to create the park to provide adequate space for active, outdoor recreation for the many new residents who were anticipated, and have since arrived. Only 6.5 of the full 27 acres of Bushwick Inlet Park that were promised have actually been developed to date; as a result, components of Greenpoint and Williamsburg currently have considerably less open space available for residents to enjoy than Brooklyn or the entirety of New York City and consequently suffer from higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments. To help sustain neighborhood pressure amid negotiations, Borough President Adams staged a number of community actions in recent months; these included the creation of a deadline clock, emblazoned on a giant countdown banner, which ticked off the days that the owner of the 11-acre lot had to accept the City’s initial offer for the land, as well as a teach-in sleep-over that he led with residents outside the park.

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Borough President Adams kicked off his public housing town hall at UnCommon Charter High School in Crown Heights with hundreds of Brooklyn’s NYCHA residents.

Borough President Adams joins NYPD Commissioner James P. O’Neill at Brooklyn Borough Hall, along with a number of local youth and police officers, to launch #MyBrooklynStory, an innovative campaign to help strengthen police-community relations.

Borough President Adams hosted a Celebration of Thanksgiving and Praise, a free concert held at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts Walt Whitman Theatre in Flatbush. This year’s performance, held on Sunday, November 13th, featured a range of gospel singers, including artists from Brooklyn. Attendees were asked, in the spirit of the season, to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to a family in need.

What the L? As a member of the L Train Coalition, Borough President Adams partnered on a public forum to plan new transit options during the impending 18-month shutdown of the L train’s Canarsie Tube in 2019. The gathering to discuss potential mitigation efforts was held at Automotive High School in Williamsburg on Tuesday, November 15th.

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The first Brooklyn Dyslexia Awareness Nite was held at St. Francis College in Downtown Brooklyn on Monday, November 26th. Borough President Adams co-hosted this forum with State Senator Martin Golden and Assembly Member Jo Anna Simons to help advance their legislation for the certification or training of teachers, administrators, and instructors in the area of dyslexia and related disorders.

The NYC Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. Under this program, a property tax credit covers the difference between the actual rent amount and what the tenant is responsible for paying at the frozen rate. Borough President Adams, a major supporter of this effort, co-hosted an application assistance event with the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) at the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library in Prospect Heights on Thursday, November 17th. The longer one is in the program, the greater the benefits; those who enter later may have to continue to renew, and meet all the eligibility requirements that would find that the current amount they pay for rent today could be the same in 20 years. Those seeking more information, including eligibility criteria, can visit nyc.gov/rentfreeze.

Happy Thanksgiving! On Thursday, November 22nd, Borough President Adams commemorated GivingTuesday, a global day of charity, by presenting more than 100 MetroCards donated to his office by local houses of worship to non-profit organizations that will distribute them to underserved residents needing transit assistance as they apply for jobs or seek social services. He delivered these “Seeds of Kindness,” as he has dubbed the initiative, during a large-scale distribution outside Brooklyn Borough Hall of over 1,000 turkeys with accompanying healthy trimmings, including fresh carrots, green beans, and yams, to more than 125 local food pantries and houses of worship that served Brooklynites in need this past Thanksgiving.

Every day, 43 children are diagnosed with cancer, though less than five percent of federal funding for cancer research goes to support children. In September 2014, Borough President Adams and Council Member Vincent Gentile introduced an initiative to create new vanity license plates for funding treatment of childhood cancer with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Since then, they have urged the New York State Legislature to pass S.1485/A.1683A, a legislative measure from State Senator Kenneth LaValle and Steve Englebright that would authorize the issuance of license plates bearing the words “Cure Childhood Cancer,” with the annual service charge getting deposited into the DMV’s distinctive plate development fund and the excess of $6,500 received from the deposit of a new “Cure Childhood Cancer” research fund. On Monday, November 28th, they celebrated Governor Andrew Cuomo signing the measure into law. New Yorkers can order the new vanity license plates by visiting dmv.ny.gov.

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Health is greater than wealth. Since the begin- ning of his administration, Borough President Adams has focused on organizing a variety of community events to advance preventative health access and education. On Sunday, November 6th, he partnered with the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, NE Region on such a health fair at Brooklyn Borough Hall, which included free health screenings, flu shots, and medical consultations.

Fueling Brooklyn’s future has been a priority for Borough President Adams, who is concerned about the number of gas stations closing across the borough due to real estate pressures as well as furthering technologies such as electric- and hydrogen-powered cars as a more environmentally-friendly alternative. He held a hearing at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, November 10th on station access and pressures as well as furthering technologies closing across the borough due to real estate concerns about the number of gas stations.

The following is a month-by-month update, highlighting actions and initiatives Borough President Adams has taken.

November

Every November, Borough President Adams hosts a Celebration of Thanksgiving and Praise, a free concert held at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts Walt Whitman Theatre in Flatbush. This year’s performance, held on Sunday, November 13th, featured a range of gospel singers, including artists from Brooklyn. Attendees were asked, in the spirit of the season, to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to a family in need.

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On Saturday, November 12th, Borough Presi- dent Adams teamed up with Council Member Jumaane D. Williams and Girls Leading Up to host Girl’s Empowerment Day at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The afternoon of networking, professional workshops, and speed mentoring was hosted by Emica Parker, director of the Miss New York Plus America pageant, and featured an address from New York Liberty center Tina Charles, the 2012 WNBA MVP.

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On Thursday, November 24th, Borough President Adams hosted a dinner for senior citizens at Boys and Girls High School in Bedford-Stuyvesant, sponsored by LCG Community Services. The celebration included a traditional holiday feast as well as music and raffles.

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In response to concerns about continued investment in safeguarding neighborhoods in the borough as part of his FY17 budget capital at an announcement on Monday, November 21st at the Billie Holiday Theatre in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The 45-year-old performing arts space at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, which was built to expose the community to the arts and employ local talent as well as world-renowned artists such as Debbie Allen and Samuel L. Jackson, will benefit from $200,000 in funding to support its first-ever major renovation. A variety of artistic and cultural spaces in Brooklyn Heights, Coney Island, Crown Heights, Fort Greene, Gowanus, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Williamsburg also received support, offering services ranging from family-friendly enrichment and historical preservation to collaborative engagement and cutting-edge expression.

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