LATEST INITIATIVES

Advisory Board (SWAB) that he convenes monthly, to showcase the powerful potential of composting, including its positive benefits for the borough’s environment and its burgeoning urban agriculture sector. Following his announcement, the New York City Department of Sanitation (DNSY) unveiled plans for its expanded organics program in Brooklyn Community Boards (CBs) 1, 2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16, as part of a wider effort to serve all New Yorkers by the end of 2019; this initiative has the full support of Borough President Adams.

Borough President Adams embarked on an innovative approach to the complex citywide homelessness crisis when he declared his support for the Home Stability Support (HSS) subsidy on Wednesday, March 27th. HSS would be a bridge between the current shelter allowance and 85 percent of the fair market rent determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local districts will have the option to further raise the supplement up to 100 percent of the fair market rent at local expense. In his call to further action, Borough President Adams emphasized the need for a more robust partnership between the City and State in tandem with community engagement to tackle the homelessness crisis. He also announced that Borough Hall will be gathering local stakeholders to talk about how the borough can come together and have a community response to homelessness that complements government efforts.

The second annual “Embrace Your Hyphen” Citizenship Day was held on Saturday, March 25th at Brooklyn Borough Hall, hosted by Borough President Adams and Deputy Borough President Raycox. Amid mixed anxiety around immigration, hundreds of legal permanent residents received free assistance with their naturalization applications and had legal questions answered by more than 100 experienced immigration attorneys. More than 200,000 Brooklynites are eligible to naturalize; in the largest concentrations reading in Bensonhurst, Bushwick, East Flatbush, and Sunset Park. His drive was held in concert with several immigrant “know your rights” trainings where community members learned from legal experts about their rights under the law co-sponsored by Brooklyn Borough Hall, East Flatbush, held at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County on Wednesday, March 22nd and at Flatbush Gardens Community Center on Wednesday, March 29th.

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation was the site of the Brooklyn hearing for Borough President Adams and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.’s Gifted and Talented Education Task Force. The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 28th, focused on issues surrounding gifted and talented education in the borough as well as the admissions process for the city’s specialized high schools. The task force’s recommendations for the future of gifted education in the city will be released later this year and will target policies and solutions around increasing recruitment of minority and low-income students into these programs.

WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

In the spirit of unity, Borough President Adams led an interfaith prayer vigil at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Wednesday, March 7th to honor more than 1,000 lives lost around the world in 2017 at the hands of domestic and global terrorism. The gathering brought together concerned Brooklynites and consular generals of several countries, including Kazakhstan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey, the latter of which suffered a terror attack on New Year’s Eve in the Beşiktaş district of Istanbul, a sister city of Brooklyn.

Health care is a human right. That was the affirmation at the Die-In for the ACA, a protest that local activist group Get Organized BK! held on the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall on Saturday, March 11th. Borough President Adams joined Representative Nydia Velázquez, Council Member Brad Lander, and more than 100 protestors to declare their opposition to Congress’ proposed repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Erie go brag! Borough President Adams celebrated St. Patrick’s Day at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Friday, March 17th, hailed the rich contributions of Irish-Americans to Brooklyn’s political and social history. The heritage program featured local dance school students performing Irish dance routines, along with a presentation of awards for outstanding contributions to the borough’s Irish-American community.

Bon appetit! The 2017 edition of Dine in Brooklyn took place from Monday, March 20th to Thursday, March 30th. Borough President Adams’ 10-day restaurant week, exclusively sponsored by Visa, gave 90 eateries an opportunity to highlight menus at discounted prices to customers, all at no cost to participating businesses. Program partners included the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Brooklyn Spectator, New York City Hospitality Alliance, New York State Commerce, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Brooklyn Spectator, New York City Hospitality Alliance, and Yelp.

As part of Greek Heritage Month, Borough President Adams commemorated the rich history of Greek-American culture with a celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, March 20th. The festive occasion featured a variety of speakers from...
Brooklyn’s Greek-American community along with cultural dance ensembles and a dinner featuring dishes from locally-based Greek eateries. Brooklyn is home to more than 10,000 Greek-Americans.

Borough President Adams honored a group of detectives and firefighters involved in two recent high-profile incidents at his latest “Heroes of the Month” ceremony on Tuesday, March 21st at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The honorees included NYPD Lieutenant Detective John Russo, a Williamsburg-based police officer whose diligence helped crack the murder case of slain jogger Katrina Vetrano, as his “Hero of the Month” for February at a ceremony in the Courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall; they were joined by NYPD Commissioner James O’Neill (center-left) and members of Russo’s family.

Fashion Week BK’s kick-off was held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 21st, showcasing the latest in the borough’s clothing and accessory designs. The sneak peek preview was hosted by Borough President Adams and the Brooklyn Style Foundation, an organization aiming to present educational programming to young people interested in developing careers in the business and creative aspects of fashion.

On Saturday, March 25th, Borough President Adams kicked off voting at Brooklyn Borough Hall for the citywide Participatory Budgeting Vote Week. The vote, conducted through Friday, March 30th, enabled residents over the age of 14 to have their say on funding particular projects in their districts including school infrastructure projects, traffic improvements, and green space enhancements. Borough President Adams has committed $1 million in capital funding to leverage the efforts of Brooklyn’s council members participating in the process.

On Wednesday, March 1st, Borough President Adams launched the 2017 edition of Brooklyn Crochets for a Cause, a fun program that features weekly crochet classes taught by a craft professional. The crafting sessions, held on Wednesdays throughout the month at Brooklyn Borough Hall, contribute to the creation of blankets and scarfs that are donated to individuals with diabetes and kidney disease to keep them warm and comfortable during dialysis treatment. This year’s cause is inspired in part by Borough President Adams’ desire to expand his personal struggle against Type 2 diabetes to a boroughwide battle against diseases sparked by poor food choices. Diabetes and high blood pressure are the main causes of kidney disease, and as much as half of kidney disease sufferers have diabetes. In 2013, more than 47,000 Americans died from kidney disease. To learn more about Brooklyn Crochets for a Cause: Kidney Disease Awareness, visit brooklyn-usa.org.

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 topics such as alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup, or other community matters, including the topics in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.

COMMUNITY ALERTS

In partnership with Borough President Adams, LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today) hosted a 12-week parenting course at Brooklyn Borough Hall this winter, covering a range of topics on better childrearing practices. Twenty-five graduates completed the program on Tuesday, March 28th which covered communications and parenting styles, money and emotional management, as well as practical discipline. LIFT is hosting its next run of this series every Tuesday from April 11th to June 27th at the Brooklyn Community Recovery Center in Bedford-Stuyvesant. All workshop participants receive a free MetroCard, lunch, and a Certificate of Completion. Please visit liftonline.org for more information.

In response to Verizon not fulfilling their contractual obligations to the City, Borough President Adams announced support for a lawsuit filed in the New York Supreme Court on Thursday, March 16th against the company’s lackluster rollout of fiber-optic FiOS service. The issue dates back to 2008, when Verizon promised New York City residents that it would wire all five boroughs with high-speed fiber optic cable by 2014. In 2015, responding to a drawn out implementation of this plan, Borough President Adams held a public hearing at Brooklyn Borough Hall where constituents from across the borough shared their stories of the company’s misleading services. The lawsuit states that Verizon failed to complete fiber-optic installations as requested by potential subscribers, and did not deliver on subscribers’ requests for the service despite the City making it an explicit requirement as part of the reflect contract. Service complaints can be made by contacting 311.

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