WHAT'S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

Borough President Adams joined Council Members Vincent J. Gentile, Barry S. Grodenchik, and Jumaane D. Williams in celebrating the 49-0 passage of City Council Bill Intro 218-A on Wednesday, May 16th. Their legislation, proposed at Borough President Adams’ request, will increase the penalties for aggravated illegal conversions, defined as three or more illegal dwelling units being created within one structure, which threaten the safety of occupants and neighbors. The bill was first developed after the November 2014 fire in an illegal unit above a Flatbush church killed an individual and injured 16 others, destroying the building. To prevent such incidents in the future, the measure created a fine of $15,000 for each individual unit that is three or more units above the property; if unpaid for one year, the lien can be sold by the City. Additionally, the regulation will institutionalize the process of obtaining an access warrant to an alleged aggravated illegal subdivision.

Joining by an array of local small business owners operating in the burgeoning craft beverage industry, Borough President Adams unveiled a new report compiled by his administration on the economic potential of expanding breweries, cideries, distilleries, and wineries across the city. The findings of the report, announced on Tuesday, May 23rd at the New York Distilling Company in Williamsburg, included the challenges with marketing and regulations, and the opportunities for growth that could result in millions of dollars in additional wages and tax revenue. The recommendations included eliminating barrier limits on licenses to allow for craft beverage producers to grow sustainably; creating a craft beverage permit person on the local level through the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC); promoting Brooklyn’s breweries through tourism, particularly NYC & Company; urged the borough’s underserved ameliorate disgust to use for disposal of organic waste and then distribution to urban forms for harvest; and, the creation of an urban agriculture incubator in which would foster this industry.

On Tuesday, May 30th, Borough President Adams toured the poor conditions his administration has observed at the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR)’s East New York station, renewing his call for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to address historic inequities of infrastructure investment in Brooklyn’s communities of color. Joined by local community leaders and transit advocates, he expressed his concerns regarding safety, accessibility, and general maintenance. Capital investments in state has not been directed toward this station in a number of years, an oversight he urged Governor Andrew Cuomo to rectify. Borough President Adams also called on City Comptroller Scott Stringer to update the audit of the station to accurately reflect its current condition and needs.

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
SCORE NYC Small Business Mentoring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Museum – Parking Lot
Movie Night Under the Stars

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH**

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Eastern Parkway between Flatbush and Washington avenues
Central Brooklyn Arts & Culture Weekend

**MONDAY, JUNE 12TH**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – BP’s Conference Room
UnionLand’s Revue Procedure Public Hearing

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH**

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room
12th Annual After Dinner

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH**

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Plaza
New York City Dance Mask Kickoff

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH**

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Rotunda
Marc’s Health Symposium and Expo

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH**

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Brooklyn Bridge Park
Adopt-A-Shelter Animal Day

**MONDAY, JUNE 19TH**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courtroom
Building a Better PAP/PIA Leadership Training

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH**

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courthouse
2017 Community Maternal Health Forum

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST**

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room
Specialized HS Prep Info Session

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND**

12:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courthouse
Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration

If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by visiting brooklyn-usa.org for more information or by calling our event hotline at (718) 802-2328. Additionally, to stay up-to-date with the launches, visit our website to sign up for Borough President Adams’ paperless notifications, like his Facebook page, and follow @BPPericAdams on Twitter.

**NEW YORK CITY DANCE WEEK KICKOFF**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Museum – Parking Lot
Movie Night Under the Stars

**KIDS Got the beat!**

Local students played their favorite tunes in Downtown Brooklyn’s Public Park as part of Borough President Adams’ School Lunchtime Concert Series, a six-show run on Wednesdays that debuted on May 10th. Youngsters from 18 elementary, middle, and high schools across Brooklyn provided free instrumental and vocal performances sponsored by the One Brooklyn Fund, Inc.; NYC & Company Foundation; WellCare, and Subway.

We are the champions — again! On Wednesday, May 17th, Borough President Adams hosted “A Night Honoring Brooklyn Champions” at St. Francis College in Downtown Brooklyn, applauding their hard work and dedication to sports and innovation. Honorees included the girls’ swimming and boys’ volleyball teams.

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wrestling teams at Brooklyn Technical High School in Fort Greene; the girls’ basketball team at Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented in Bushwick; the boys’ junior varsity basketball team at The Green School in Williamsburg; the boys’ wrestling team at Grand Street Campus in East Williamsburg; the app-designing team that won the Samsung Solve For Tomorrow Contest at Secondary School for Journalism in Park Slope, as well as the girls’ junior varsity and varsity basketball teams at South Shore High School in Canarsie.

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! Borough President Adams celebrated the rich history of immigrants from across Asia with a festival hosted on Pier 1 of Brooklyn Bridge Park on Sunday, May 21st. The family-friendly activities included cultural offerings from countries such as China, India, Korea, Lebanon, and Mongolia.

The second annual “Heritage of the Caucasus” festival, co-hosted by Borough President Adams and the Brooklyn Baku Friendship Association, was held on Sunday, May 21st, with music and dance performances at the Master Theater in Brighton Beach. The event honored the rich cultural and artistic traditions of immigrants from Azerbaijan, Dagastan, Georgia, and Ossetia.

In honor of our servicemembers’ sacrifices, Borough President Adams provided funding for and marched in Brooklyn’s 150th Kings County Memorial Day Parade in Bay Ridge on Monday, May 29th. The oldest continuously run Memorial Day Parade in the nation traveled down Third and Fourth avenues to salute the bravery of our armed forces, concluding at John Paul Jones Park.

In response to soaring health care costs for patients and Brooklyn hospitals alike, Borough President Adams unveiled “Is It an Emergency?”, a multimedia public service announcement (PSA) campaign aimed at advising patient education to reduce the adverse risk of emergency rooms, a common destination for many Brooklynites lacking health insurance. The initiative, launched on Monday, May 8th, in front of the Brooklyn Urgent Care Center in East Flatbush, encourages Brooklynites to utilize more efficient and cost-effective health care facilities such as a federally-qualified health clinic (FQHC), primary care doctor, or urgent care clinic. A 2013 study by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) found that 85 percent of statewide ER visits were treat and release, with the majority of these visits being avoidable. The initiative aims to increase awareness of the diverse health services available to Brooklynites, and how they save time and money as they navigate the health care system. The PSA video can be viewed on Borough President Adams’ YouTube channel, and is being aired across cultural, health, and entertainment venues across Brooklyn.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted a six-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian immigrants who were spared from deportation when escaping the country after the devastating 2010 earthquake. The measure, announced on Monday, May 22nd, includes a provision that this group of immigrants would be able to stay in the United States until January 22, 2018, but would be eligible for deportation immediately after that date. Borough President Adams urged authorities to institute a cumulative 18-month extension, at minimum, as a fair and sensible approach to safeguarding the well-being of tens of thousands of Haitian families in Brooklyn and across America. He also urged the Trump Administration to focus on supporting relief organizations working on the ground to rebuild Haitian communities. Those in need of assistance with their immigration status should contact the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) by calling (212) 788-7654.

Borough President Adams denounced the State’s response after the second incident at the DeKalb Avenue B and Q subway station in several days. The power outage on Tuesday, May 9th threw tens of thousands of New Yorkers’ commutes into a miserable snarl, another episode in a long stretch of signal failures, timetable irregularities, delays, and infrastructure deficiencies in the City’s transportation system. Borough President Adams called on the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) to conduct an economic impact analysis of the recent MTA subway outages, studying the lost economic productivity of hundreds of thousands of workers and the resulting impact to businesses in our city and state as well as lost tax revenue. To file a complaint about your commute, please write to MTA New York City Transit, Paratransit Division, Customer Relations, 130 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or visit mta.info and click on “Contact Us.”

On Sunday, May 21st, Borough President Adams joined worshippers at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights for his launch of the first-ever Brooklyn’s Homelessness Awareness Month, to be held this June. The Coalition for the Homeless estimated that there are nearly 16,000 homeless families in the city, comprising more than three-quarters of the homeless shelter population. Central Brooklyn has one of the highest concentrations of family homelessness, particularly in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and East New York. Borough President Adams will use the month-long campaign to engage communities of faith, educational institutions, and other civic and business groups to support Brooklyn’s homeless population. The initiative will also, at Borough President Adams’ request, recruit the first-ever Director of Community Partnerships at the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), to be housed at Brooklyn Borough Hall. For more information, please visit brooklyn-usa.org.

COMMUNITY ALERTS

On Saturday, May 20th, the City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), in collaboration with the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), as well as other partners, held a “Get a Clue” event in Manhattan to raise awareness about the signs of human trafficking and provide information on how to help.

On Wednesday, May 24th, a group of Brooklynites will attend the City of New York’s Anti-Trafficking Task Force meeting to discuss strategies for preventing and responding to human trafficking.

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) 862-3700.