In response to Correction Officer Jean Roston suffocating a fractured spine and smothering the brain following an orchestrated attack by both the officers and non-violent offenders, who commit violent acts in jail to ensure the safety of the officers and non-violent offenders.

On Wednesday, February 14th, Borough President Adams joined the City Council delegation from Brooklyn in calling on Mayor Bill de Blasio to allocate $10 million in the City’s Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget to complete the capital and operating costs for the creation of Brooklyn’s first burn unit. This removed push, announced on Tuesday, February 20th, came amid a rise in local fires; last year, the New York Fire Department (FDNY) responded to 8,206 structural fires and 4,974 non-structural fires in Brooklyn alone, an increase of nearly two percent and 6.5 percent over 2016 statistics, respectively. Cost estimates for the first year of operation for a new eight-bed burn unit, including build-out and operating costs, are approximately $45 million. Borough President Adams committed $4.15 million from his Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) capital budget to go toward the construction of a burn center in Brooklyn, he and the members of the Brooklyn delegation emphasized the need for the City to act on this public health and safety imperative. A burn center provides all four phases of treatment for burns, including treatment of wounds and surgery, interventions to prevent shock, rehabilitation services, and reconstructive surgery. Burn units treat a variety of burn types, such as the thermal burns sustained in a fire, chemical burns caused by common household cleaners and swimming pool chemicals, and liquid, as well as electrical burns that can also cause internal damage.

To advance Brooklyn tourism, Borough President Adams and Brooklyn Arts Council Executive Director Charlotte Cohen joined representatives from small local arts organizations across the borough in announcing $22,500 in new Destination>Brooklyn mini-grants to 15 local arts and culture organizations to advance cultural tourism across the borough; this allocation brought the program’s total investment to local arts and culture organizations to more than $75,000 since 2015. The grant program, now in its fourth year of operation, supports the promotion of local artistic groups to a broader audience through the creation, production, and distribution of print promotional materials, funded by the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President and NYC & Company Foundation. The announcement took place at the studio space of one of the grant recipients, Cora Dance, a critically-acclaimed dance company in Red Hook that offers five days of pay-what-you-can classes in ballet, composition, hip-hop, modern, and other dance forms led by an array of professional dance instructors; groups of children and young adults from the dance school performed at the celebration.

To build upon the success of the Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams’ Forward Planning 2030 strategic plan, Borough President Adams has pledged more than $10 million in the City’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the construction of the first city burn center in Brooklyn. This allocation represents an increase of nearly 25 percent over the $7.6 million the Office of the Mayor committed in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget to advance the design and construction of the burn unit. President Adams and the Mayor’s Office worked closely with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (NYC Health + Hospitals) to establish the need for a burn unit in Brooklyn, with the Mayor and the FDNY working to ensure the resources are made available to the community to save lives, reduce injuries, and improve outcomes for Brooklyn residents.

On Thursday, February 1st, Borough President Adams joined the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), and the Mayor’s Young Men’s Initiative (YMI) in hosting a convening of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative in the Courtroom at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The gathering brought together academics and practitioners to discuss empowerment issues for young men of color.

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Borough President Adams held a month of Lunar New Year celebrations at Brooklyn Borough Hall, starting off with a Chinese and American cultural exchange meet-and-greet between students from China and Brown Crown Heights’ Medgar Evers College Preparatory School on Friday, February 2nd, followed by a Lantern Festival Market held in Columbus Park on Saturday, February 10th and concluding with a Year of the Dog celebration in the Rotunda on Thursday, February 22nd.

Healthy eating, healthy living! Borough President Adams hosted his second Plant-Based Vegan Meetup in the Courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, February 5th. The evening featured a panel discussion with several vegan activists as well as delicious plant-based treats for all to enjoy.

Design-build now! That was the message at a community rally held on Friday, February 9th at the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, where Borough President Adams advocated for the use of this project delivery method to expedite the reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street in Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO.
In celebration of Black History Month, Borough President Adams hosted a gathering of African-American clergy leaders, under the theme of “Remembering Our Roots,” at the Billie Holiday Theatre in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Thursday, February 15th. The month was capped off with a free Student Loan Debt Clinic held on Friday, February 16th at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, to announce $22,000 in Downtown Brooklyn tourism mini-grants awarded by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), with funding from the Office of the Borough President and NYC & Company Foundation.

“Fei Diia de la Independencia Dominican” can! On Tuesday, February 27th, Borough President Adams, along with Council Members Rafael L. Espinal, Jr. and Antonio Reynoso, joined Brooklyn’s Dominican community in celebrating the country’s independence in the Courtroom at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The festivities included remarks by Carlos Castillo, consul general of the Dominican Republic in New York, as well as cultural performances and a taste of Dominican cuisine.

On Monday, February 5th, Borough President Adams joined a rally organized by the St. Nicks Alliance and local residents at 250 Martin Luther King Avenue in Williamsburg to demand their landlord heed their calls for much-needed repairs, leave, and respect for the tenants of the building. Residents of the privately-owned building have been on rent strike since May of 2016 and are being represented by the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A in their legal battle against the landlord. Borough President Adams spoke about the importance of maintaining affordable housing in Brooklyn and the need for management to be responsive to the needs of residents, particularly when their housing conditions have deteriorated due to purposeful neglect. If you are facing contractual or maintenance issues with your landlord and need help from the City, please call 311 or our Constituent Assistance Center at (718) 802-3800.

In response to persistent problems with boilers, heating, and water supplies at all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings across Brooklyn, Borough President Adams convened an emergency press conference calling for dedicated funding for NYCHA infrastructure repairs and increased public-private partnerships to support current residents including reconnecting with former residents who have gone on to live successful lives. On Monday, February 5th at Governor House (Boerum Hill), Borough President Adams also called for the creation of a NYCHA capital project dashboard to provide real-time information and data to help guide project implementation, which would include, but not be limited to, the provision of information as to project costs, status updates, as well as additional progress metrics such as completion timelines. An analysis conducted by Borough President Adams’ office found that while a capital project dashboard exists within the Office of the Mayor, NYCHA is not listed as one of the agencies monitored, and there is no similar dashboard specifically for NYCHA capital projects beyond a list of whether a reported issue is in progress of being addressed or if it has been resolved. If you have issues with heat or hot water at a NYCHA residence, contact 311 or our Constituent Assistance Center at (718) 802-3800.

Borough President Adams paided the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and the New York Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) on Thursday, February 15th for launching a strategic assessment on the need for affordable artist workspace through CreateNYC. The initiative follows a report his administration compiled in 2016 recommending the use of the ULURP process to secure affordable cultural and studio spaces for artists and art organizations. Workspaces are often costly and out of reach for many artists just starting out in their careers or working to climb onto the next ladder of their careers. These spaces will serve to be new homes for talent across the borough, further cementing Brooklyn’s reputation as a cultural and entrepreneurial haven for the creative sector while helping to maintain neighborhood residency for artists who have invested years in making our communities more distinct and dynamic. If you are seeking to develop and/or operate affordable artist workspace in Brooklyn, respond to the request for expressions of interest (RFEI) at nycedc.com or contact the arts office for further information or to download an application; the submission deadline is February 4, 2019.

In the wake of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which killed 14 students and three teachers, Borough President Adams convened an emergency gun violence meeting with high school students, gun violence advocates, parents, and youth organizations on Thursday, February 22nd in the Community Room at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Attorneys discussed how to help mitigate a Brooklyn-wide, youth-led movement for gun reform. Borough President Adams, an outspoken advocate on reducing gun violence across America as both a legislator and 22-year veteran of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), facilitat ed a discussion on how Brooklyn’s schools can increase their security measures, the importance of developing robust mental health support for young people in school and in after-school programming, and the need to unite the borough’s youth to combat gun violence. He also announced Brooklyn Borough Hall as an open hub for students and advocates to converse and organize in preparation for actions such as the National Student Walkout on Wednesday, March 14th and the March For Our Lives on Saturday, March 24th in Washington, DC. Students across Brooklyn are invited to participate in Borough President Adams’ National Student Walkout Rally to be held at Prospect Park on Wednesday, March 14th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, for more information, please call (718) 802-2356 or email programs@brooklyn-ny.gov.

Ahead of Colon Cancer Awareness Month, which is annually observed in March, Borough President Adams announced free colon cancer screenings will be made available through the month for uninsured and underserved persons at 10 different locations across Brooklyn, including Brooklyn Public Library Medical Center, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, Maimonides Medical Center, NewYork Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull, and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Colon cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer death in Brooklyn, with men in East New York having the highest colorectal cancer death rate in the borough. Symptoms can include change in frequency of bowel movements, change in consistency of stool or any blood, weakness and fatigue, and unexplained weight loss. If you are uninsured or underinsured and wish to schedule a colon cancer screening, call (718) 802-3847.

Community Alerts

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) 802-3705.

To sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, please visit: www.brooklynusa.org/newsletter