On Friday, January 4th, Borough President Adams and Council Member Donovan Richards convened tenant leaders at Ocean Bay Apartments in the Rockaways to discuss the strategic deployment of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program launched by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). They encouraged NYCHA to expand its use of the program — a public-private partnership that provides financial resources that NYCHA cannot otherwise access to enable critical-needed building repairs and ongoing maintenance while preserving permanent affordability and tenancy of existing residents. Borough President Adams, who has previously endorsed the use of the RAD program based on its success at the housing complex, brought together tenant leaders from various public housing developments across Brooklyn whose homes will be converted to new management through the RAD program on a tour of Ocean Bay Apartments to show the results of the program’s conversions, sites include Armstrong I, Armstrong II, 572 Warren Street, Berry Street, South 9th Street, Marcy Avenue-Greene Avenue Site A, Marcy Avenue-Greene Avenue Site B, and Weeksville Gardens. Borough President Adams, Council Member Richards, and NYCHA tenant leaders discussed the merits of the RAD program, the critical importance of proactive tenant engagement, and the necessity of securing funding that frees the city’s public housing stock while ensuring it remains affordable and accessible for very low-income New Yorkers.

In response to chronic rush hour concerns for commuters, Borough President Adams, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, Council Minority Leader Steven Matteo, as well as Council Members Justin Brannan and Carlos Menchaca publicized their request for a meeting with Mayor Bill de Blasio to discuss problems with, among other things, potential improvements to the High Occupancy Vehicle 3+ (HOV-3+) lane that traverses Brooklyn and Staten Island. In a Thursday, January 3rd letter, they identified several potential solutions for consideration to commuting issues currently posed by the HOV-3+ lane, including a two-hour expansion of the morning hours of operation, in order to attract commuters with flexibility in their schedules, as well as increased enforcement through a greater, more consistent police presence, and potentially through the use of technology to detect the requisite number of people in a vehicle.

Borough President Adams joined NYC Health + Hospitals President and CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz, MD, as well as doctors, medical professionals, and health care advocates in launching a new Measles Monday initiative at all 12 public hospitals across the NYC Health + Hospitals system. The expansion of plant-based menu options, announced on Monday, January 14th at NYC Health + Hospitals/Conely Island in Sheepshead Bay, addresses a growing crisis of preventable diseases citywide. Borough President Adams called on all hospitals to sign on to the Measles Monday pledge, an international campaign focused on improving the health of both individuals and the planet. Additionally, on Wednesday, January 16th, he delivered testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Education at City Hall focused on improving the health of both individuals and the planet. Additionally, on Wednesday, January 16th, he delivered testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Education at City Hall regarding a series of measures to improve the health outcomes of students, namely, by providing assistance to remove processed meat from school cafeterias. Following an announcement on Thursday, January 10th that NYC Ferry service will be expanded to Coney Island by 2021, Borough President Adams celebrated the “milestone achievement, a common-sense solution that affirms our years of advocacy, on behalf of transit-starved residents on the West End and small businesses that depend on tourist activity. In the months ahead, I will continue conversations with NYCEDC and the Conely Island community on the establishment of new ferry routes as well as the location of a dedicated landing, which I have called for sitting along Conely Island Creek at West 21st Street. Additionally, my pursuits of ferry service to Coney Island — a community in true need of transit equity — as well as a ferry connection between Brooklyn and Staten Island are as strong as ever.”

On Tuesday, January 9th, Borough President Adams joined representatives from WeWALK — developers of a “smart cane” for the visually impaired — to announce a beta testing initiative with employees of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) as well as clients of Helen Keller Services for the Blind, a non-profit dedicated to empowering people across the United States.

On Wednesday, January 10th, Borough President Adams and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez joined New York City Police Department (NYPD) leadership, local clergy, and violence interrupters at Brooklyn Borough Hall to highlight how 2018 ended with Brooklyn setting a record-low in homicides. Ninety-seven murders were recorded in Brooklyn last year, the first time since record-keeping began that fewer than 100 homicides took place. To set a new record in 2019, Borough President Adams called for a 20 percent increase in funding for the Mayor’s Office to Combat Gun Violence, supporting violence interrupters, clergy councils, and community observation patrols.

Borough President Adams and New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza (right) high-fived students at PS 84 Jose de Diego in Williamsburg as they participated in a citywide Healthy Cooking Workshop. Photo Credit: Erica Krugman, Borough’s Office

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It was a warm winter’s afternoon on Coney Island Beach as Borough President Adams participated in 115th annual Polar Bear Plunge made famous by the legendary Coney Island Polar Bear Club. Celebrating the first New Year’s Day that both he and his mother were diabetes-free, he decided to “take the plunge” on Tuesday, January 1st alongside thousands of people from Brooklyn and beyond.

On Wednesday, January 2nd, Borough President Adams and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez joined New York City Police Department (NYPD) leadership, local clergy, and violence interrupters at Brooklyn Borough Hall to highlight how 2018 ended with Brooklyn setting a record-low in homicides. Ninety-seven murders were recorded in Brooklyn last year, the first time since record-keeping began that fewer than 100 homicides took place. To set a new record in 2019, Borough President Adams called for a 20 percent increase in funding for the Mayor’s Office to Combat Gun Violence, supporting violence interrupters, clergy councils, and community observation patrols.

Resolute to eat healthy? That was the theme at Borough President Adams’ latest Healthy Cooking Workshop, which took place on Thursday, January 3rd at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Attendees learned about how to prepare three delicious plant-based and gluten-free plant-based proteins and other simple natural remedies and health nuggets presented by a qualified naturopathic doctor.

On Friday, January 11th, Borough President Adams joined the Brooklyn Perinatal Network, The Brooklyn Coalition for Health Equity for Women and Families Leadership Team, as well as Assembly Member Tremaine Wright and Council Member Helen Rosenthal, MD, to “speak truth to power, and share the latest in evidence-based strategies aimed at addressing Maternal Morbidity.” The public forum, held at Brooklyn Borough Hall, presented a community-based proposal to respond to the social determinants of health, particularly focusing on effective services to address severe maternal morbidity and mortality.

LATEST INITIATIVES

UPCOMING EVENTS

VARIous DATES VARIOUS TIMES
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80 FREE Legal Services for All

EVEry MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall Constituent Assistance Center Walk-In

EVEry MONDAY THRU FRIDAY VARIOUS TIMES
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80 SCORE NYC Small Business Mentoring

EVEry MONDAY THRU FRIDAY VARIOUS TIMES
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room Free Tax Preparation and Filing

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 10:30 PM – 12:30 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room Black History Month Celebration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Courtroom Notice of Property Value Public Sessions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room Year of the Pig Celebration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room Trap-Neuter-Return and Colony Care Workshop

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Community Room Summer Program Resource Fair
Happy College Awareness Day! Borough President Adams and New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza participated in a citywide celebration of College Awareness Day on Friday, January 11th by participating in a college scavenger hunt with a group of seventh grade students at PS 84 Jose de Diego in Williamsburg. The celebration encourages postsecondary readiness among students so that a college and career culture is fostered at that school and throughout the city.

Borough President Adams joined a Better Way NYC, Brooklyn Heights Association, and community leaders at a rally along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade on Saturday, January 12th focused on the replacement of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) triple carri- lever. Borough President Adams expressed his opposition to the six-lane highway plan introduced by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), calling for greater environmental consideration and meaningful engagement from State officials.

As part of the Brooklyn Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Borough President Adams co-sponsored public workshops to gather input on potential proj- ects designed to improve the Downtown Brooklyn area through a $10 million investment that he helped to secure from the State. The two sessions took place on Wednesday, January 16th at the New York University (NYU) Tandon School of Engineering MakerSpace in Downtown Brooklyn and Wednesday, January 23rd at Walt Whitman Public Library in Fort Greene.

In celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Borough President Adams hosted the 33rd annual Brooklyn tribute to the civil rights leader at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in Fort Greene on Monday, January 21st. The event’s keynote speaker was #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke.

On Wednesday, January 23rd, Borough President Adams co-hosted a Minority and Women Business Enter- prise (M/WBE) Borough Forum at Medgar Evers College in Crown Heights alongside the Mayor’s Office and the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBT). The event provided attendees with assistance on registering and certifying a business with government entities, identifying govern- ment contracting opportunities, deter- mining appropriate mentorship programs, as well as workshops, marketing, and accessing affordable loans.

Get rid of that debt! Borough President Adams co-hosted a student loan debt clinic in partnership with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) Office of Financial Empower- ment at the Crown Heights Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) on Saturday, January 26th. The session featured free confidential one-on-one financial counseling with professional counselors and consultations with legal aid attorneys.

Brooklyn Heights Promenade.

Brooklyn Borough President Gale Brewer, and other community leaders outside the Lorraine Street L train station in Williams- burg to demand answers to regarding the viability of proposed changes to the planned L train shut- down.

Borough President Adams and Council Member Donovan Richards (right) joined public housing tenant leaders (left) outside Ocean Bay Apartments in the Rockaways to demon- strate the critically-needed building and apartment repairs and ongoing maintenance undertaken at the housing development as part of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program launched by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Photo Credit: Eugene Resnick/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Brooklyn Borough President Gale Brewer spoke out against the proposed six-lane highway plan to replace the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) triple carri- lever. At a Better Way NYC rally along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade.

Photo Credit: Erica Kadowi/ Brooklyn BP’s Office

Brooklyn Borough President Gale Brewer and Council Member Donovan Richards (right) attended a Better Way NYC rally along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade.

Photo Credit: Eugene Resnick/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Community board and capital budget applications are open in Brooklyn! Borough President Adams encouraged Brooklynites from every neighborhood in the borough to apply for an opening on one of Brooklyn’s 18 local community boards. Interested candidates, who must be New York City residents that live, work, in or have a professional or other significant interest in that board’s district, are asked to submit their application online at brook- lyn-usa.org, the deadline for application submis- sions for 2019 appointments is Friday, February 15th. Additionally, Borough President Adams invited City agencies, borough schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to apply for capital funding from his office for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) funding. All requests for capital funding must be submitted via an online capital funding application, which can be found by visiting brooklyn-usa.org; the FY20 application process opened on Friday, December 21st, and the deadline to submit a request is 11:59 PM on Wednesday, February 13th. These applying for capital funding for a wide range of projects should complete the critically-needed capital application from either the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) or at New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the deadline to submit those applications is 5:00 PM on Wednes- day, February 20th.

In response to neo-Nazi postings that appeared across Greenpoint during the first weekend of January, Borough President Adams joined Repre- sentative Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Julia Salazar, Assembly Member Joseph Lentol, and Council Member Stephen Levin in a public statement on Tuesday, January 8th that condemned the postings and noted that “the materials contained Nazi swastikas and the numbers 14 and 88, which refers to the 14th word in the Heil Hitler salute respectively. Unfortunately, these stickers are part of a wider pattern of neo-Nazi activity in the area around Greenpoint and Williamsburg, including swastikas that were spray-painted and etched on Manhattan Avenue and McGolrick Park in the past ten years. In response to this pattern of hate, we will be working with a diverse range of stakeholders across community-based organizations, houses of worship, and local businesses to bring residents of Greenpoint together. If you have any information on who may be responsible for the postings, contact the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Crime Stoppers by calling (800) 577-TIPS.

Borough President Adams demonstrated a first-of-its-kind “smart can” alongside WeWALK Project Lead Kurtz Gray, as well as representatives from Helen Keller Services, Lighthouse Guild, and the MTA, in the Rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Photo Credit: Eugene Resnick/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Community development (DYCD) to host a Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) Information Session on Tuesday, January 29th at Brooklyn Borough Hall, to encourage Brooklynites to learn about and sign-up for their local NAB to identify needs of their community and allocate much-needed funding for services such as adult literacy, fatherhood services, housing programs, immigration services, and senior and youth programs. To be a part of a NAB, members should be full-time residents of the Neighborhood Develop- ment (NDA) they represent — areas specific- ally designated as in need, have lived in the neighbor- hood for a minimum of six months, at least 16 years of age, and have no formal associations with any organization that receives DYCD funding under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. If you are interested in joining your local NAB, contact Council Member Stephen Levin by emailing gsale@brook- lynteleport.nyc.gov.

It’s tax season! Borough President Adams and Grow Brooklyn, Inc. have joined together to host a series of free tax preparation and filing services, in partnership with the Mayor’s Office, New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, NYC Free Tax Prep, Brooklyn Federal Credit Union, Internal Revenue Service, and Single Stop. The services kicked off on Friday, January 25th, with appointments available at Brooklyn Borough Hall, in partnership with the Mayor’s Office, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To schedule an appointment, visit growbrooklyn.org; taxes are (347) 682-5506.

Our Constituent Assistance Center is here to serve all of Brooklyn. If you are someone you know are having any issues, or if you have questions about topics such as alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup, or other commu- nity matters, including the topics this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.