Brooklyn Crochets for a Cause: Homeless Outreach
WEDNESDAYS, FROM MAY 13TH TO 29TH

Scholarly research has demonstrated that practicing mindfulness, yoga, breathing exercises, and skills to work through stress have a positive impact on behavior and learning. On Wednesday, April 10th, Borough President Adams zipped his annual “Financially Savvy Youth Conference” in Brooklyn College’s Student Center in Flatbush to call for State legislative hearings on legislation that would establish a financial education curriculum in grades nine through twelve across New York. At least five states currently require a personal finance course to graduate high school. Implementing a financial education curriculum has been demonstrated to improve students’ credit scores and increase savings rates.

What’s Up at Brooklyn Borough Hall?

Borough President Adams supported the “educate, empower, enlighten” mantra of My Time Inc., where he hosted parents and other caregivers of children with autism and developmental disabilities in commemorating National Autism Awareness Month on Thursday, April 11th at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The group, in partnership with the SmartFit and Shining Star organizations, acknowledges the importance for caregivers of special needs children to have a safe space to share information, resources, and support that benefits their children, as well as themselves.

The “Fresh Vibes Market” is ready to roll! On Wednesday, April 24th, Borough President Adams and The Brooklyn Borough Hall Children’s Arts and Education Fund were thrilled to roll out the new state-of-the-art RV that has been retrofitted to bring below-market price produce, cooking demonstrations, nutrition workshops, as well as a range of other social services to food deserts across Brooklyn. They kicked off the initiative, funded through a $300,000 grant from Borough President Adams’ FY19 capital budget and operating expense support from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, outside the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in East Flatbush. The ‘Fresh Vibes Market’ RV will operate at three stops per day, five days a week, providing affordable, healthy produce grows locally by TCAH. The RV will also provide one-on-one benefits counseling, tax preparation and filing, SNAP screenings, fitness classes, and job referral services.

Joe Buda Jr., surprised the students of PS 135 Sheldon A. Brooker in East Flatbush with a special Nets playoff pop rally. In proclaiming the next day to be “Rep the Nets Day in Brooklyn, USA,” Borough President Adams amped up the youth in advance to show their borough pride in support of their hometown team, which was playoff-bound for the first time since 2015. In the same spirit of fun, Borough President Adams made his way to Luna Park on Tuesday, April 23rd, where he declared the opening of Coney Island, where he presided over the annual egg crate christening of the world-famous Cyclone.

Ready for a 4 train extension? Borough President Adams and students from New York University (NYU) Wagner co-hosted a workshop on Thursday, April 11th at the
Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)’s Eastern Parkway Branch in Crown Heights to discuss the future of commuting along the busy Utica Avenue corridor. A NYU Wagner capstone project his office is supervising will complement a long-awaited MTA study of the corridor that stretches down to Marine Park, including the possibilities of a subway extension, light rail, and bus service enhancements.

On Tuesday, April 16th, Borough President Adams spent time with members of the Tilden Senior Center in Brownsville, addressing their concerns and speaking about the importance of proactive wellness. Later that evening, he gave a community update to members of the Marine Park Community Association and the Madison-Homescrest Civic Association, which held a coalition meeting of southern Brooklyn neighborhood groups at the Carmine Street Advocates to join him for his fifth annual Bake-to-Work ride on Monday, April 22nd. The ride, which started at Zion Triangle in Borough President Adams’ native Brownsville, highlighted the positive impact New Yorkers can have on their local environment by using pedal power.

In support of National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, Borough President Adams collaborated with the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) to present the fifth annual Bridge Walk for Prevention on Wednesday, April 24th, across the Brooklyn Bridge from City Hall to Brooklyn Borough Hall. The walk, which hundreds of ACS staff and community partners joined, highlighted many of the initiatives and programs that keep children safe and make families healthier and stronger.

Sak pasta? It was all about Haitian-American business when the Haitian-American Business Network (HABNET) Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Borough President Adams, hosted its 15th annual Toussaint L’Ouverture Symposium and Business Expo at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Friday, April 26th. The cultural and educational program was also a celebration of the co-naming of a section of Nostrand Avenue in Flatbush last year at Toussaint L’Ouverture Boulevard.

Brooklyn Borough President Adams enjoyed a laugh with Comptroller Scott Stringer (right) as they volunteered at a Passover food distribution at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, organized by the Met Council on Jewish Organization (MCJO) of Williamsburg.

Photo Credit: Ale Friedman/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Borough President Adams shared a moment with Brooklyn-bred rapper Joey Bada$$ in a classroom at PS 135 Sheldon Al. Broker in East Flatbush prior to their participation in the special Brooklyn ‘Has the power to fix it’ rally.

Photo Credit: Stefan Ringel/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Health is better than wealth! SOMOS Community Care, a network of nearly 2,500 health providers throughout New York City, in partnership with Borough President Adams, hosted a vagin-focused health fair at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Saturday, April 27th, which included cooking demonstrations, free food preparation, health screenings, and organic grocery giveaways. Additionally, Borough President Adams supported a Brooklyn Alheimer’s Research Update forum at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center in East Flatbush on Monday, April 29th, presented by the hospital as well as the Alzheimer’s Association – NYC Chapter, New York Memory Center, and Sunnyside Community Services.

To rent or buy in Bed-Stuy? On Tuesday, April 30th, the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) teamed up with Borough President Adams, Council Members Alicka Ampry-Samuel and Robert Cornegy, Jr., Brooklyn Community Board 3 (CB 3), and other local partners for a workshop and resource fair centered around the “Bed-Stuy Housing Initiative” at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant. HPD is launching the Bed-Stuy Housing Initiative to evaluate and improve upon the agency’s affordable housing investments in the neighborhood.

Borough President Adams rallied local support behind the Driver’s License Access and Privacy Act, a bill that would extend access to driver’s licenses for all state residents, regardless of immigration status, in front of a backdrop of flags from around the world at Columbus Park as part of Brooklyn’s special observance of Immigrant Day of Friendship. Photo Credit: Stefan Ringel/Brooklyn BP’s Office

After significant community concerns were raised by residents and community leaders — including Borough President Adams — about the City’s plans to replace the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) triple cantilever, Mayor de Blasio announced on Wednesday, April 3rd that he would convene a new expert panel to evaluate a range of options for its reconstruction. The approximately 1.5-mile section of the BQE between the Atlantic Avenue interchange and Sandal Street is among the most complex highway structures in the country, and includes the triple-cantilever structure of which the Brooklyn Heights Promenade is the top-most tier. This news came the same day as a town hall co-hosted by A Better Way and the Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) at the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights. At the town hall, Borough President Adams expressed that he will fight for a better BQE, and also expressed the successful efforts to secure design-build authorization for the project and to establish this new panel, as a case study to be followed by other communities in Brooklyn seeking to improve their environment. More information on this project is available at bge-1278.com.

Get vaccinated! In the wake of the measles outbreak that has largely affected sections of Williamsburg, Borough President Adams shared his full support of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)’s order, issued on Monday, April 8th, that mandated that unvaccinated individuals living in select ZIP codes in Brooklyn undergo measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine in order to protect others in the community and help curb the ongoing outbreak. The public health emergency declaration came after DOHMH issued Commissioner’s Orders to all yeshivas and day schools in select ZIP codes in Williamsburg to exclude unvaccinated students or face violations and possible closure.

Brooklyn Borough President Adams and Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza, and Council Member Rafael L. Espinal, Jr. Dee to right, back row join students, educators, and New York City Department of Education (DOE) administrators in a loving kindness meditation at Vista Magnet Academy in East New York, as students light candles in front of the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President to create the Via and Maafushe Classroom Teacher Preparation Program.

Photo Credit: Erica Koeneman/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Brooklyn Borough President Adams called out the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)’s decision to ban bike lanes in a piece of legislation that passed unanimously.

Photo Credit: Photo Credit: LAUREN DREW/BROOKLYN BP'S OFFICE

New Yorkers should call 311 to access a list of facilities that can provide MMR at low or no cost. For more information on the measles outbreak, including what to watch out for, visit nyc.gov/health.

#MakeBrooklynCount. Ahead of the Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in Department of Commerce v. New York on Tuesday, April 23rd, a challenge to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross’ controversial decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, Borough President Adams signed onto an amicus brief filed by 190 bipartisan elected officials, counties, and cities from 13 states, arguing that the citizenship question will harm states and individuals across the country because it will lead to an unequal distribution of Federal funding. The brief specifically highlights the harms the undercount would cause to people who rely on Title I funding for at-risk school-children and funding for crime victims’ assistance programs. Borough President Adams and the Brooklyn Community Foundation have formed the Brooklyn Complete Count Committee, which comprises more than 250 local organizations, to move forward the agenda of the #MakeBrooklynCount campaign, urging all Brooklynites to participate in next year’s census so the borough can receive its fair share of resources. To get involved in the campaign’s efforts to maximize local Census counts, contact Pastor Elliot Giantson at gmorose@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

On Tuesday, April 30th, Borough President Adams announced his appointment of Eve Baron, urban planner, policy analyst, and chairperson of the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment in the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute, to the city’s new Civic Engagement Commission. In her capacity at Pratt, Baron oversaw a successful program in affordable housing, land use, and zoning. The 15-member commission was formed to get city and state officials, subject matter experts, non-profits, and advocates, including the City Charter was that was adopted by voters last year, the commission will run a citywide participatory budgeting program, increase awareness of City services, assist New York City agencies in crafting civic engagement initiatives, develop a plan to consider the language access needs of limited English proficient New Yorkers, and provide assistance to community boards. To learn more about the commission, visit nyc.gov/civicengagement.

COMMUNITY ALERTS

The scheduled slowdown of the L train began on Friday, April 26th. During the 18-month long recon- struction work on the busy subway line, service will be partly shutting down on nights and weekends to accommodate repairs on the Canarsie Tube linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, which was damaged after Superstorm Sandy. Borough President Adams has expressed dismay with the lack of an independent third-party review of the Metropolitan Transporta- tion Authority (MTA’s) revised plan, as well as the need for additional community engagement and transparency. However, he expressed gratitude that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) delivered a positive response for bus and bike priority lanes on 14th Street in Manhattan and a permanent Grand Street redesign in Brooklyn. Affiliated commuters should consult new-mta-in- full for project updates and transit schedules.

Tune in to News 12 Brooklyn every second Monday from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM for “Ask the Borough President” as he answers questions. Borough President Adams discusses topics of the day, in person and in real time. If you have a question you’d like answered, call (718) 861-8877 or tweet using the hashtag #BKAAskAHPB.

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 pick-up, or other City community matters, including the topics in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.