**LATEST INITIATIVES**

Borough President Adams and New York City School Chancellor Richard Carranza jointly launched a pilot program on Thursday, June 4th to introduce the practice of mindfulness, meditation, and yoga to schools throughout the borough. Joining them were Council Member Rafael Espinal and Superintendant Dr. Thomas McCartney, as well as students, teachers, and parents from Vista Academy in East New York, where it was announced that $110,000 in funding through a discretionary grant provided by Borough President Adams would be given to launch the pilot program, which will consist of New York City Department of Education staff learning best practices through 200 hours of training, and is the first of its kind in the city. The program endorses the philosophy that mindfulness promotes being “present” in one’s current situation in a way that is non-judgmental, which can be achieved through exercises that include meditation, yoga, and certain breathing techniques, all geared toward reducing anxiety and stress and increasing emotional reactivity, while boosting cognitive flexibility, focus, and memory.

Housing theft is a major issue in Brooklyn and merits a “full-scale, forensic audit and investigation,” said Borough President Adams on Thursday, June 6th, during a press conference in front of the Bedford-Stuyvesant home of Dorus Griffiths, who was the victim of a predatory scheme to defraud him of his property and who has been embroiled in a legal battle to keep his home. Mr. Griffiths’ plight was highlighted at the press conference, Borough President Adams emphasized the need for protections for New Yorkers of all backgrounds, not just a select few. The “Release the Data” campaign was launched to address the concerns raised by civil rights and faith leaders who fear that thousands of construction workers of color will lose good job opportunities and will be unfairly excluded from the currently proposed expansion of prevailing wage.

When a bill requiring plant-based food options in hospitals passed both houses of the State Legislature on Monday, June 3rd, Borough President Adams was highlighted as a source of support. The bill, introduced by State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, requires hospitals to offer a plant-based food option as an alternative to every meal or snack offered to a patient, at no additional cost. “When patients are in the care of medical professionals, everything they do must be oriented toward helping them heal and live healthier lives,” said Borough President Adams in a statement issued on Tuesday, June 4th. The science is crystal clear to the power of a whole-food, plant-based diet to reversing chronic diseases. That science will now be practiced through our hospital menu,” he said, championing the bill and applauding its authors for advancing it through both sides of the Legislature. What remains now is for the governor to sign it into law.

On Monday, June 10th, New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers who served in the department’s Cadet Corps program held a press conference calling on Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Corey Johnson to support a State law correcting a mistake in the law that denied them credit for their cadet service. Joining the former cadets, Borough President Adams stated that making the correction was a simple matter of fairness, self-acknowledged error, and that the City has a moral obligation to make things right by New York’s Finest.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, JULY 21ST**
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk
Summer Stage Concert Series

**TUESDAY, JULY 16TH**
7:00 PM
Long Meadow North at Prospect Park
A Summer Movie Under the Stars

**WARNING**
If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by visiting brooklynusa.org for more information or by calling our event hotline at (718) 802-2328.

**WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC L. ADAMS’ MESSAGE OF THE MONTH**

**WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?**

**Brooklyn Borough Hall**

**Saturday, June 1st**

**On Stage at Kingsborough: Hot Summer Nights!**

Office of the Kings County District Attorney has prosecuted 22 cases of deed fraud since 2016, evidence suggests the problem is even more widespread, and that the City may unwittingly be playing a part with the Third Party Transfer (TPT) program. Borough President Adams has been vocal on this issue, and is working with housing advocates to roll out a robust policy agenda to combat the housing theft crisis.

“Before Albany expands prevailing wage laws, they must require that developers ‘Release the Data’ on the diversity of their construction workforces for projects receiving public funding,” said Borough President Adams during a June 11th rally in front of City Hall along with representatives from the 400 Foundation from across the five boroughs. The campaign launch also included the release of a new video by the 400 Foundation that calls for data-driven solutions and reminds state lawmakers of their obligation to ensure that the construction industry creates opportunities for New Yorkers of all backgrounds, not just a select few. The “Release the Data” campaign was launched to help address the concerns raised by civil rights and faith leaders who fear that thousands of construction workers of color will lose good job opportunities and will be unfairly excluded from the currently proposed expansion of prevailing wage.

When a bill requiring plant-based food options in hospitals passed both houses of the State Legislature on Monday, June 3rd, Borough President Adams was highlighted as a source of support. The bill, introduced by State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, requires hospitals to offer a plant-based food option as an alternative to every meal or snack offered to a patient, at no additional cost. “When patients are in the care of medical professionals, everything they do must be oriented toward helping them heal and live healthier lives,” said Borough President Adams in a statement issued on Tuesday, June 4th. The science is crystal clear to the power of a whole-food, plant-based diet to reversing chronic diseases. That science will now be practiced through our hospital menu,” he said, championing the bill and applauding its authors for advancing it through both sides of the Legislature. What remains now is for the governor to sign it into law.

On Monday, June 10th, New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers who served in the department’s Cadet Corps program held a press conference calling on Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Corey Johnson to support a State law correcting a mistake in the law that denied them credit for their cadet service. Joining the former cadets, Borough President Adams stated that making the correction was a simple matter of fairness, self-acknowledged error, and that the City has a moral obligation to make things right by New York’s Finest.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**EVERY MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall
Constituent Assistance Center
Constituent Assistance Center Walk-In

**EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall - Room G-80
SCORE NYC Small Business Mentoring

**SATURDAYS IN JULY, THROUGH JULY 27TH**
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Lights and Bandshell at Kingsborough Community College
On Stage at Kingsborough: Hot Summer Nights!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, JULY 7TH**

**FRIDAY, JULY 12TH**
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk
Summer Stage Concert Series

**TUESDAY, JULY 9TH**
7:00 PM
Long Meadow North at Prospect Park
A Summer Movie Under the Stars

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH**
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Brooklyn Bridge Park
HealthFest Festival

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH**
7:00 PM
Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk
Summer Stage Concert Series

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST**
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Brooklyn Bridge Park
HealthFest Festival

**THURSDAY, JULY 18TH**
6:00 PM
Wingate Park
Wingate Concert Series

**THURSDAY, JULY 11TH**
2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall
Free Mortgage Assistance Event

**Friday, July 26th**

**Saturday, June 1st**

**On Stage at Kingsborough: Hot Summer Nights!**

If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by visiting brooklynusa.org for more information or by calling our event hotline at (718) 802-2328.

**AdoptDon’tShop!** When Borough President Adams invited residents and visitors to Brooklyn Borough Hall to Adopt-a-Shelter Animal event on Saturday, June 1st, the response was overwhelmingly positive. The concept of pet seekers opting to adopt a shelter animal, rather than buying a new family friend, seemed to appeal to many of those who stopped by to browse, play, or adopt one of the adorable dogs or cats that were available. Additionally, free cat and dog vaccines against rabies, distemper, and a variety of other ailments that can plague furry friends were administered to pets brought by the event. In all, 179 vaccinations, 71 dog registrations, and 18 adoptions occurred by the end of the day.

Happy LGBTQ+ Pride Month! Borough President Adams showed robust support of Gay Pride events throughout June. The month-long celebration, made more special this year as the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots was commemorated, kicked off at Brooklyn Borough Hall with Brooklyn Pride on Monday, June 3rd, in partnership with the Sage Organization, which created the soon-to-open Ingersoll Senior Residences in Fort Greene — New York City’s first and the nation’s largest LGBTQ+-friendly senior housing project.

On Tuesday, June 18th, the global contributions of local LGBTQ+ Brooklynites were highlighted at the Destination Brooklyn Pride Honors celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Finally, Borough President Adams joined a host of rainbow flag-wavers as he walked through midtown Manhattan in solidarity with thousands of other marchers in the WorldPride parade on Sunday, June 30th.

Heroes at Any Age Borough President Adams bestowed honors on Brooklyn’s latest Heroes of the Month during a ceremony in the Rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall on Wednesday, June 5th. Recognized on that occasion were Jacob Abraham, a Good Samaritan who stopped his car to save a suicidal man attempting to jump off the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in March; State Trooper John Reyes, the first responder who stopped to assist at the rescue on the bridge; Hopecut Kiffin, an MTA conductor who rescued a 13-year-old depressed boy from the subway tracks in April; and Obocho Peters, the 10-year-old founder of an online thrift store, established to assist low-income parents in purchasing affordable clothing for their children, and who also launched a financial literacy series in May, designed to help parents of modest means save for their children’s college education.

Making the Grade On Sunday, June 9th, Borough President Adams joined educators and journalist Andrea Strong, Council Member Rafael Espinal, Balanced, Hip Hop and Obocho Peters, the 10-year-old founder of an online thrift store, established to assist low-income parents in purchasing affordable clothing for their children, and who also launched a financial literacy series in May, designed to help parents of modest means save for their children’s college education.

Continued on next page
Borough President Adams was joined by Council Member Rafael Espinal, the David Lynch Foundation, and scores of New York City students for a group meditation session at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Credit: Erica Kneiden/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Borough President Adams (center) stood with State Senator Zelnor Myrie (right), Council Member Alcina Ampy-Samuel (far right), and mourners at a vigil in Brownsville for slain cyclist Ernest Askew, who was the 14th person struck and killed by a vehicle in New York City this year. Credit: Jonah Allon/Brooklyn BP’s Office

The Brooklyn Pride parade along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope was but one of several celebrations of the LGBTQ+ community during the month-long commemoration of gay pride throughout the city. Credit: Stefan Ringel/Brooklyn BP’s Office

**COMMUNITY ALERTS**

Tune in to News 12 Brooklyn every Monday from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM for “Ask the Borough President.” Weigh in live as 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) 861-6827 or tweet using the hashtag #BKAskTheBP.

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.

Borough President Adams stated a pose with parade revelers at the fifth annual Puerto Rican Parade & Festival in Sunset Park. Credit: Tonya Cardi/Brooklyn BP’s Office

The Office of Brooklyn Borough President Adams in partnership with Benito Kizitchen, a Brooklyn-based company that is helping New Yorkers learn about their eligibility for benefits such as child care, public assistance, SNAP, and many others. By downloading the app, or visiting app.benefitkitchen.com, you can get started. Log in with an email address and take 10 minutes to answer the questionnaire. When you’re done, you’ll receive helpful information and dollar amounts for all the benefits you and your family are eligible to receive. Once you have this information, the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President can help you apply. Contact the Brooklyn Borough Hall Constituent Assistance Center at (718) 802-3700, or call/text Brooklyn Job Centers at on nyc.gov/2b6ewl2.

Borough President Adams noted some major wins in this year’s City budget, which was passed by the City Council on Wednesday, June 18th. The initiatives that pushed that receiving fund this year included $45 million in capital funding for important projects across Brooklyn, $40 million to increase participation in the 2020 Census, $350,000 in support of Brooklyn senior centers, $150,000 in operating costs for a mobile shower bus that will serve homeless people throughout the borough, and a Cultural Institutions Group designation for the Weeksville Heritage Center, which will provide long-term funding for an invaluable cultural and historical resource. At the same time, Borough President Adams also urged the Council to adopt other items that didn’t make it into this year’s budget, including expanding the Fair Fares program to Access-A-Ride users and stepping up investments in affordable housing. For more information on the budget, visit councilnyc.gov/budget/19.

Following the tragic death of cyclist Ernest Askew, 57, in Brownsville on Thursday, June 27th, Borough President Adams, along with Council Member Alcina Ampy-Samuel, State Senator Zelnor Myrie, safe streets advocates, and sympathetic members of the community gathered at the scene of the accident on July 1st to hold a candlelight vigil, while calling for improvements in street safety. At the time. Mr. Askew was the 14th cyclist in the city this year to be killed – a statistic that is considerably larger than last year’s overall number. The incident called attention to the fact that communities of color have largely been excluded from conversations around street safety and design, confirmed by the fact that Brownsville has no protected bike lanes. For more information on New York City’s action plan for combating traffic deaths and injuries on City streets, go to nyc.gov/visionzero.

Everyone Counts! When the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) temporarily blocked the Trump Administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census form on Friday, June 28th, opponents to the question recognized that the ruling left the door open for the administration to present a new rationale for approval at a later date. This could have resulted in immigrant households being deterred from taking part in the census out of fear that data could be shared with law enforcement agencies. For days later, the government scrapped plans to add the question to the census form after it was determined that there wouldn’t be enough time to continue the legal battle around the issue, and still meet the printing deadlines for the questionnaire. The decision represented a victory for civil rights advocates, including Borough President Adams, who were all concerned that the question would lead to an inaccu- rate count of immigrant communities, skewing political representation and federal funding. The win will help ensure a census that counts everyone, as the Constitution demands. Have questions about the census? Go to us.census.gov/2020census for answers.

is Green, True Healthy Initiative, and Green Beets in a March for Healthy School Food across the Brooklyn Bridge. Alongside advocates that included children, parents, nutritionists, doctors, and wellness professionals, Borough President Adams called on the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to serve meals with only non-processed ingredients. In addition to investing in culinary education and the creation of kitchen gardens so that children can not only eat healthier, but also get hands-on education in eating healthy.

Kutlado Traditional dance, food, music, and reverence were on display when Borough President Adams, in partnership with the consul general of Turkey and the Turkish Heritage Committee, hosted a Turkish Heritage Day, including the Turkish Heritage Festival, on July 20th. The event celebrated the island as it struggles to recover, even to the present day.

Island Spice Brooklyn Borough Hall was brimming over with Caribbean flavor when Borough President Adams and the Caribbean-American Heritage Committee hosted the annual Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration on Thursday, June 27th. The event included a Caribbean cultural marketplace on Columbus Plaza, a symposium on opportunities for Caribbean nation-building, an art exhibit by Cheyenne Sookoo, and a concert on the plaza for answers.

Dominican-Americans embraced their heritage at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, June 18th when Borough President Adams, in collaboration with Council Members Antonio Reynoso and Rafael Espinal, Jr. as well as District Leader Arelis Martinez hosted the Brooklyn Dominican Heritage Celebration honoring 2019 Dominican Day Parade (DDP) leadership. During the festival event, the DDP bestowed special recognition on Gaye Anderson with an “Adopted Dominican Award” and Jack Brown, who was honored with the Dominican Brooklyn Borough Award.

Community Service On Tuesday, June 18th, the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, in cooperation with the Mayor’s Community Assistance Unit, conducted the annual swearing-in and orientation for the newest members of the borough’s 18 community boards. The induction is designed to familiarize new board members with City Charter-mandated functions, including the City budget process, land use review procedures, service delivery, and other issues affecting community boards and the communities they serve.

JULY 2019