WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

Solemn Tribute
Borough President Adams once again presided over Brooklyn Borough Hall’s commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in which 2,996 people were killed and 6,000 injured at a memorial service held on Tuesday, September 10th. This year, special emphasis was placed on the approximate 50,000 individuals, including first responders and civilians, who have been struck with life-threatening and death-causing diseases, including cancer, severe respiratory diseases, and digestive disorders, related to the attacks. Two Brooklyn-based first responders who succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses were posthumously honored: New York City Police Department (NYPD) Detective Luis Alvarez, who fought before Congress for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) bill to be signed into law, and former NYPD Officer Diane Halbran, who diligently assisted with search and rescue efforts immediately after the attacks.

Mind over Matter
What better way to get kids off to a positive start to the school year than to encourage them to slow down their pace and breathe? That was Borough President Adams’ thinking when he observed Mindfulness Day in Brooklyn by hosting local students and their teachers at Brooklyn Borough Hall Plaza on Thursday, September 12th, to engage in open-air exercises in rhythmic breathing and drumming, meditation, and yoga. The youth were encouraged to continue the practice of moving their bodies, relaxing their minds, and taking moments of rest at appropriate times during their hectic school schedules throughout the year.

Show of Pride
On Sunday, September 15th, Borough President Adams was honored to “cross the bridge” to serve as Honorary Marshall of this year’s African American Day Parade, which ran along Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard in Harlem. The 50th parade anniversary was held amidst a sea of enthusiastic patrons waving flags in the traditional colors of red, black, and green in a show of African-American unity, pride, and progress.

Ich bin ein Berliner
Borough President Adams brought words of greeting to a high-ranking business delegation headed by the Berlin State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Deputy Mayor of Berlin when they and representatives from Berlin-based companies and associations converged on the New York University (NYU) Tandon School of Engineering in Downtown Brooklyn on Monday, September 16th. The participants discussed issues of energy and mobility, as well as ways of creating more synergies between New York City and Berlin.

Embracing the Caucus Mountains
On Friday, September 20th, Borough President Adams hosted the inaugural Georgian Heritage Celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall. More than 5,000 Georgians — the largest population of Georgians in the US —
call Brooklyn home. Georgia, or what native Georgians call Sakartvelo, features the Caucasus Mountains, beaches of the Black Sea, and a vibrant ancient culture. Borough President Adams and H. E. Diana Zhgenti, Consul General of Georgia in New York, presided over an evening of art appreciation, cultural performances, and tributes to Georgian honorees.

Page Turner

More than 40,000 bibliophiles checked in to check out the newest works of national and international literary stars and emerging authors at the Festival Day and Literary Marketplace portion of this year’s Brooklyn Book Festival, held on Sunday, September 22nd at Brooklyn Borough Hall and the surrounding vicinity. Borough President Adams was on hand to welcome old-timers and newcomers alike to what has evolved into New York City’s largest free literary event.

Flaunting Lebanese Pride

Monday, September 23rd was Lebanese Heritage Day at Brooklyn Borough Hall, at which time Borough President Adams encouraged Lebanese-Americans to celebrate with traditional dancing, drinks, food, and music. The festive affair, attended by Gebran Bassil, Foreign Minister of Lebanon, and Majdi Ramadan, Consul General of Lebanon in New York, among other dignitaries, marked the 11th year of the collaboration between Brooklyn Borough Hall and the Brooklyn Lebanese community.

Relax, Relate, Release!

It was about getting into a Zen state of mind on Sunday, September 29th when Borough President Adams joined New York City Council Member Rafael Espinal, representatives from MasterMindConnect, and more than 50 men of color to launch the inaugural “Black Men Mediate” event at Fort Greene Park. This mediation session, at which men of all hues were welcome, encouraged all to fellowship in an atmosphere of calm focus and cathartic rejuvenation, free of judgement or stress.

Harvest Moon

Borough President Adams joined with the Sino American New York Brooklyn Archway Association in hosting the annual Autumn Festival at Pier 6 at Brooklyn Bridge Park on Sunday, September 29th. The celebration, with roots in ancient Chinese agriculture customs, featured traditional forms of artistic expression, children’s activities, and ceremonial mooncakes.

COMMUNITY ALERTS

On Wednesday, September 4th, Borough President Adams joined with residents of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Howard Houses in Brownsville to call for expedited removal of scaffolding that has remained on several of the buildings within the complex since 2016. Tenants have complained that the scaffolding blocks windows to
apartments, has become a haven for rodents, and causes potential unsafe conditions for those who must walk beneath the structures, particularly at night. Despite assurances that the structures would be removed by June 2019, they remain. Borough President Adams advocated for clearer timelines for the installation and removal of scaffolding to be communicated and adhered to, and should those timelines need to be pushed back for good reasons, that those reasons be clearly communicated to residents. To file a complaint against a building in New York City, call “311” or go to www1.nyc.gov.

Borough President Adams took the borough’s pervasive rat infestation issue head-on by introducing a pilot program he had tested using Rat Traps that caught and killed 107 rats over the course of one month just around Brooklyn Borough Hall. During a press conference on Thursday, September 5th, Borough President Adams, accompanied by New York City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and Council Member Robert Cornegy, shared data that revealed that, in 2018, Brooklynites called in more than 6,500 rat complaints to 311 — the most in the five boroughs. Borough President Adams gave a graphic demonstration of how Rat Traps work and promoted that the success of the model pilot programs could be scaled up around the city, at relatively low cost and with proven results. Go to https://portal.311.nyc.gov to lodge rat complaints.

Borough President Adams joined New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Assembly Member Felix Ortiz, and other advocates at a rally sponsored by Riders Alliance on Thursday, September 19th to protest planned cuts to Brooklyn bus service on the B38 and B54 routes. According to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), the cuts are proposed due to the MTA’s budget forecast. Borough President Adams noted that cuts would result in fewer riders and lost revenue. He joined other elected officials in calling for concerned citizens to communicate to the governor and the MTA that cuts in service along these bus routes is untenable and should be reconsidered. To weigh in on the issue, go to www.ridersny.org.

Scores of Brooklyn students joined Borough President Adams on the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall on Friday, September 20th in a precursor rally to a larger “global climate strike” protesting against human-induced climate change that was later held in Manhattan, involving thousands of youth from the Tri-State Area and millions around the world. Borough President Adams reminded the students that some of the most impactful protests against injustice and for institutional change, such as was witnessed in Soweto, Tiananmen Square, and the Jim Crow south, have been led by student activists. He implored students to push the agenda of the Climate Strike movement—diminishing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid an imminent and literal climate meltdown—by participating in similar peaceful demonstrations, speaking up to their lawmakers, and voting, when they become of age. Go to www.fridaysforfuture.org to get involved.

Tune in to News 12 Brooklyn every second 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 #BKAstTheBP.

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 garbage pickup, or other community matters, including the topics in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.
LATEST INITIATIVES

Signs of drug addiction can be lurking in every corner—even in your own home. That’s why Borough President Adams partnered with Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) Cares to bring a mobile unit to Brooklyn Borough Hall, which simulated the interior of a normal teenager’s bedroom. Tours led by former NYPD officers were available to the public throughout the day, as the guide showed how everyday household objects might be used to conceal drug use. As the opioid crisis continues to ravage the five boroughs, Borough President Adams believes that one of the best tools every person can have to prevent addiction is awareness. Many participants who toured the mobile unit agreed. A video of the press conference is available on the Brooklyn Borough President’s YouTube page.

On Wednesday, September 18th, Borough President Adams welcomed the Tzu Chi Foundation and State Senator John Liu to Brooklyn Borough Hall as they unveiled a new mobile van that provides free eyesight screenings and custom-made glasses for low-income students. The initiative, called “See 2 Succeed,” was lauded by Borough President Adams, who noted that students with limited vision tend to also struggle academically. The van is set to begin its tour of the five boroughs in the neighborhoods of Brownsville and Sunset Park.

Continuing his advocacy around ending the opioid crisis, Borough President Adams held the annual Brooklyn Recovery Conference at Brooklyn Borough Hall, which gathered advocates, experts, and policymakers for a day-long event with the theme “Moving Beyond Implicit Bias.” The event drew high-profile figures, including Dr. Kevin Sabet, former Senior Drug Policy Advisory Advisor to President Obama. Participants attended workshops on a variety of subjects relating to substance abuse and how to address it. At the conference, Borough President Adams also noted the success of his Narcan Training series, held in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and NYC Health + Hospitals. To date, 1,388 people in 25 locations around Brooklyn have been trained on how to use Narcan, a life-saving drug that can prevent opioid overdoses.

In late September, it was reported that the New York City Department of Education (DOE) was considering a ban on chocolate milk in public schools. In response, Borough President Adams released “Chocolate Milk: Do the Math”, a video in which he illustrates the amount of added sugars in chocolate milk by measuring them out and pouring a mound of sugar onto the table. “Instead of providing students with food and drinks that make them unhealthy,” he says, “we should be encouraging them to drink water, which prevents dehydration.” The video is part of Borough President Adams’ push to make students healthier. In March of this year, the City announced it was instituting “Meatless Monday” for public schools, as a result of Borough President Adams’ years of advocacy. “Chocolate Milk: Do the Math” can be viewed on the Borough President’s YouTube page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONGOING
VARIABLE DATES
FREE Legal Services for All
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80

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

EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
VARIABLE TIMES
SCORE NYC Small Business Mentoring
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80

UPCOMING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
6:00 PM
Borough Board Meeting
Brooklyn Borough Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Citizenship Drive
Brooklyn Borough Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Extended Use Hardship Pilot Program Information Session
Brooklyn Borough Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
6:00 PM
NYC Charter Commission Community Information Session
Brooklyn Borough Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
6:00 PM
Latino Heritage Celebration
Brooklyn Borough Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sermons for Safe Streets Clergy Forum
Brooklyn Borough Hall

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

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