WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

Beauty Comes Clean
Borough President Adams brought greetings when Heidi Brown, founder of Brilliance by Brown consultancy, hosted Brown Talks: A Skincare, Conscious Beauty, and Wellness Conversation on Wednesday, October 2nd at Chelsea Piers Fitness in Downtown Brooklyn. The firm, in partnership with the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, presented a panel of four beauty experts specializing in various aspects of skincare and current beauty trends, all of whom shared intelligence centered around clean, non-toxic, and age-defying regimens and treatments aimed at providing consumers with options in healthy beauty products.

A Heroes’ Welcome
Borough President Adams commended six local do-gooders from around the borough for their individual acts of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice spanning the months of June, July, August, and September, during his Heroes of the Month initiative, held October 3rd at Brooklyn Borough Hall. In June, volunteer group Bay Ridge Cares drew attention to the need for senior housing after helping a woman pack up the apartment of her elderly mother who had passed away and helping to make the vacant apartment available for a new senior occupant. Daphne Youree was recognized as a hero for July, for getting out of her car and using a traffic cone to unplug blocked sewer grates that had flooded the Long Island Expressway during a torrential rain storm. August heroes, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) employees Eric Boyo and Larry Moreno, saved people on the subway tracks from being hit by trains in separate incidents. Community activist Joe Gonzalez led an August water collection drive to aid residents in Newark, where elevated levels of lead were detected in that city’s drinking water. Finally, off-duty New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Captain Frank Stonitsch was named the September hero for saving a person from drowning off of Pier 6, while with his young daughter.

Age is Just a Number
Borough President Adams joined New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) President Judith Salerno, MD, MS at the St. John’s Recreation Center in Crown Heights on Monday, October 7th to unveil the results of a boroughwide survey of nearly 2,000 older Brooklynites. Those results, plus recommendations to improve seniors’ quality-of-life, were part of an “Age-Friendly Brooklyn” initiative to ensure that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy and contribute to the borough. The announcement came at the end of Active Aging Week, a weeklong campaign created by the International Council on Active Aging that promotes healthy lifestyles for seniors, and on the heels of Brooklyn being identified as having the greatest amount of older adult residents of any county in the state.

Celebrating Italian Heritage
When the Federation of Italian-American Organizations (FIAO) held its annual Italian Heritage celebration on Wednesday, October
Borough President Adams proudly presented citations to the honorees of the 2019 Latino Heritage Celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

(Left) Culture and heritage were on display at the Diwali event at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

9th at II Centro in Bensonhurst, Borough President Adams was on hand to share in the revelry. In addition to recognizing television news anchor Rosanna Scotto and the event’s five other special honorees, Borough President Adams stood in solidarity with Brooklyn’s Italian-American community, along with Council Member Justin Brannon, Bishop of Brooklyn Nicholas DiMarzio, and others in support of the wishes of 98 percent of the respondents to the “She Built NYC” monument initiative to have a statue dedicated to Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, who was ultimately not included in the first wave of the City-sponsored initiative’s statue roll-out.

Lighting Candles for Peace

Clergy leaders, elected officials, and concerned Brooklynites attended a candlelight vigil hosted by Borough President Adams on Monday, October 14th in Crown Heights at the site of the latest mass shooting that claimed four lives and injured three others, ironically on a street named after Michael Griffith, a young man who lived with his family nearby and was murdered in 1966 in a racially motivated attack that took place in Howard Beach, Queens. Borough President Adams organized the vigil to take place outside the club where illegal gambling appeared to be a staple. There, he repeated his consistent denouncement of the now national epidemic of gun violence that disproportionately affects communities of color. Those in attendance offered prayers, held lit candles, and mourned four pairs of shoes in effigy, to pay tribute to the four lives lost.

Positivity and Prosperity

Borough President Adams was in a celebratory mood as he joined Brooklyn Raga Massive at Red Hook’s Pioneer Works on Sunday, October 20th for their 24-hour Raga Massive — an artist collective dedicated to creating cross-cultural understanding through the lens of Indian classical and Raga-inspired music. The celebration and reflection, supported by a grant from the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President and the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), was held a week prior to Diwali, the Festival of Light that is a deeply significant family occasion observed by more than 200,000 members of New York City’s South Asian communities, including Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Borough President Adams has acknowledged that it’s time Diwali is observed as a City-recognized holiday, so that the city’s diversity is reflected in our officially observed holidays. To that end, he served as host of the second annual Diwali celebration and reflection, held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 22nd. This year’s observance was dedicated to families who have been separated due to cruel immigration policies and practices here in the United States.

Love for Latinos

The annual Latino Heritage celebration, hosted by Borough President Adams, was held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, October 17th. Ten honorees, representing several Latino nations and a diverse array of accomplishments in fields such as law, brand marketing, screen printing, and the arts were recognized, and highlights of the evening included a keynote address delivered by famed Spanish-American artist Domingo Zapata, and interpretive dance performed by the Ballet Hispanico dance troupe. Great food and drink were in abundance, and a good time was had by all in attendance.

Bring on the Pierogies!

On Wednesday, October 23rd, Borough President Adams brought greetings to the Polish Heritage Committee and the Polish & Slavic Center as they hosted their members at this year’s celebration of Polish-American culture at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Traditional food and drinks flowed with abundance, while revelers in attendance enjoyed music and dance that afforded them a little slice of their native Poland, while here in Brooklyn.

(Left) Borough President Adams, Medgar Evers College President Rudy Crew, New York City Department of Education (DOE) Brooklyn North Superintendent Karen Watts and Brooklyn South Superintendent Barbara Freeman listened as students shared insight into the struggle to destigmatize mental health issues among teens.
COMMUNITY ALERTS

Members of the Riders Alliance and Council Member Farah Louis joined Borough President Adams as he stood in solidarity with Transit Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 workers in fighting service cuts to the B46 MTA bus route — Brooklyn’s busiest route — as well as assaults on workers, during a press conference he held at the MTA Flatbush Bus Depot on Tuesday, October 22nd. Noting that the B46 serves thousands upon thousands of low-income riders daily, Borough President Adams warned that service cuts along Utica Avenue would threaten the livelihoods of working class commuters who rely on the route to get them to work, as well as the MTA workers who drive and service the buses that run along that route. In calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo and MTA officials to halt consideration of the service cuts, Borough President Adams made clear his intention to keep a spotlight on the issue, as well as that of the plight of TWU employees who are increasingly subjected to verbal and physical attacks by disgruntled or disturbed mass transit riders. To support Borough President Adams in this advocacy, go to new.mta.info/customer-feedback, call (888) 692-8287 or (718) 330-3322, or visit 3 Stone Street in Lower Manhattan to air your concerns.

On Wednesday, October 23rd, Borough President Adams, Amida Care, and the National Black Leadership Commission on Health (NBLCH) hosted a press conference at Brooklyn Borough Hall to support and promote the first annual PrEP Aware Week, from October 20th through October 26th, organized by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)’s AIDS Institute. Events took place statewide throughout the week to increase awareness and usage of PrEP, a once-a-day pill that prevents HIV transmission. Despite New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) data showing that HIV diagnoses are at a record low citywide, Brooklyn — with more than 30,000 residents living with HIV — continues to bear a disproportionate burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with the neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights hardest hit by the disease. DOHMH has two sexual health clinics in Brooklyn: Crown Heights Sexual Health Clinic, and Fort Green Sexual Health Clinic, both of which offer walk-in services, including HIV testing, post-exposure prophylaxis, and PrEP start. Learn more at prepforsex.org.

Every 35 hours, someone is killed in New York City traffic, and more than 150 people are injured each day. In response to these alarming statistics, Borough President Adams partnered with Families for Safe Streets to host a special clergy training forum: The Epidemic of Traffic Injuries and Deaths — The Role of Faith Communities, in connection with the World Day of Remembrance for victims of traffic accidents and their families. In response, Sermons for Safe Streets leaders shared how clergy can be a part of the solution by supporting crash victims and working with communities to prevent future carnage. For more information on how you can become involved, go to sermonsforsafestreets.org.

(b.) Borough President Adams proudly stood alongside the 2019 Heroes of the Month for June, July, August and September

Tune in to News 12 Brooklyn on Monday, November 11, 2019 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 garbage pickup, or other community matters, including the topics in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.
LATEST INITIATIVES

Brooklyn-based non-profit organizations with an annual budget of $1.5 million or less are eligible to apply for a school space use fee waiver. To explain the process and provide answers to commonly asked questions, Borough President Adams invited anyone interested to an Extended Use Hardship Pilot Program information session at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 8th. After years of advocacy for its implementation, Borough President Adams continues to spread the word about this new initiative, which is an effort to provide community-based organizations with greater access to the use of school facilities without incurring the cost of space usage. Those organizations that are interested and eligible were encouraged to come in and learn how to utilize the pilot program, in effect through June 30, 2020, to deliver services to Brooklyn’s youth. In addition, capacity-building resources were made available to youth organizations in attendance. More information on the program, including downloadable request forms, is available at infoshub.nyced.org/resources/school-programs/extended-use-hardship-waiver-program.

On Thursday, October 10th, Borough President Adams joined tenants and building workers to announce the first of many investments from the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) capital budgetary cycle, a $250,000 allocation for new boilers in Cadman Towers, a Mitchell-Lama development located in Brooklyn Heights. The money will go toward replacing boilers that are more than four decades old. The announcement, made at Cadman Towers, followed the release of a report issued by Localize.city, which revealed that Brooklyn had the most buildings with heat and hot water complaints over the past year of any borough, with 11,053 buildings and more than 67,500 complaints. Overall, between September 2018 and August 2019, about 221,000 complaints were reported to 311 throughout the city. This most recent act of advocacy for a Mitchell-Lama property falls in line with Borough President Adams’ continued quest to keep these homes affordable and to increase transparency in the system’s governance. In 2017, he played an instrumental role in helping the City secure $250 million to prevent 15,000 units from being converted market-rate.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams visited Green-Wood Cemetery (Green-Wood) on Thursday, October 15th to announce a $500,000 capital grant that will go toward an education and welcome center for visitors to the historic greenspace. When completed, Green-Wood’s Education and Welcome Center will provide classroom space, programming and workshop space, and community meeting space that will allow the cemetery — an historic park that dates back to the Revolutionary War — to offer even more benefits to Brooklynites. Further, it will offer essential visitor amenities to neighbors and tourists.

After a startling report released by New York University revealed a growing suicide crisis among Black youth — particularly Black girls — Borough President Adams, joined by elected officials, students, advocates, educators, and policymakers called for new, youth-led solutions to the disturbing trend. At a press conference held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Wednesday, October 16th, Borough President Adams, along with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Medgar Evers College President Rudy Crew, New York City Department of Education (DOE) Brooklyn

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONGOING
VARIOUS DATES
VARIOUS TIMES
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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Interagency Small Business Resource Fair
Brooklyn Borough Hall

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Opioid Memorial and Awareness Walk
Coney Island Boardwalk, West 5th Street

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.