WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL

Life Stories
Borough President Adams was a guest in “Reflections on a Life in Public Service,” St. Francis College (SFC)'s discussion series held in the institution’s Founders Hall on Monday, February 3rd. Borough President Adams and SFC President Miguel Martinez-Saenz discussed the Borough President’s experiences growing up in Brooklyn, his service in the New York City Police Department (NYPD), and his motivations to become and remain a public servant.

Promoting Financial Literacy
On Monday, February 3rd, Borough President Adams, a guest of Medgar Evers College President Dr. Rudolph Crew, was on hand for the unveiling of the school’s new financial simulation lab. Equipped with 28 computers, five smart television screens, and financial news tickers that stream information on global markets, the state-of-the-art facility will allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-time applications in the realm of Wall Street finance.

Mind Control
On Monday, February 3rd, Borough President Adams hosted his quarterly Vegan & Veg-Curious Meetup event at Brooklyn Borough Hall. This installment featured a conversation with Drs. Dean and Ayesha Sherzai, authors of “The Alzheimer’s Solution,” which explains the couple’s theory that brain health and cognitive decline are directly influenced by nutrition, exercise, stress, sleep, and engagement — all of which are within the control of each person.

Happy Lunar New Year!
Borough President Adams joined partners in government, local Chinese dignitaries, and community revelers at the annual Lunar New Year parade in Chinatown on Sunday, February 9th. The color red, which in Chinese culture represents fortune, joy, and prosperity, was emblazoned throughout the festivities, testifying to the fact that New York City’s Chinese community remains strong, resilient, and optimistic regarding all to come in the Year of the Pig.

College Bound
The value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) was explored and discussed during an HCBU Night panel discussion Borough President Adams hosted on Monday, February 10th at Brooklyn Borough Hall. College students, high schoolers, and parents in attendance were treated to life stories and testimonials from HBCU alumni as to the merits of considering these institutions of higher learning as a college choice.

Blue Support
In the wake of attempted assassinations of
In Memoriam
Mourners gathered at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, February 10th, for a candlelight vigil held in honor of former Canarsie High School basketball coach and radio DJ Tommie Allen, who passed away on February 9th after succumbing to heart and kidney conditions. Borough President Adams remarked that Allen would be best remembered for the love that he poured into his music mixes and into the young men that he mentored both on and off the basketball court.

NYPD officers in the 41st Precinct in the Bronx, Borough President Adams, business leaders, and elected officials held a solidarity press conference for public safety on Tuesday, February 10th at 1 Police Plaza. The event was organized after a gunman shot two police officers in two separate attacks that Borough President Adams labeled as assassination attempts. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and the Manhattan, Staten Island, and Queens borough presidents, City Council members, faith and business leaders, and community advocates, joined in a show of support for the NYPD.

Black History’s Next Chapter
Borough President Adams hosted the seventh annual Black History Month Celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Wednesday, February 26th, where the work of seven young men and women who are tireless advocates for their Brooklyn communities were recognized. Highlights included Asha Boston, founder of “The Dinner Table” and CEO of “Passion Fruit Vineyard,” who served as the event’s keynote speaker, and a performance by Jamel Gaines’ Creative Outlet.

Charitable Knowledge
On Friday, February 28th, New York State Attorney General Letitia James, in conjunction with Borough President Adams, hosted a Charities Symposium for non-profit organizations, presented by members of the New York State Office of the Attorney General’s Charities Bureau. The program, held at St. Francis College’s Founders Hall, included presentations on topics including workplace sexual harassment prevention policy, non-profit property tax exemption, and non-profit real estate opportunities and challenges.

(l) Borough President Adams brought Brooklyn to the Lunar New Year Celebration in Chinatown, Manhattan
(n) Borough President Adams hosted an HBCU Night panel at Brooklyn Borough Hall
COMMUNITY ALERTS

Borough President Adams joined Julie Goggin and attorney Roger Archibald on Thursday, February 13th, to demand that JetBlue treat people of color with dignity and respect. Ms. Goggin, a former State prosecutor, alleged that she and her sons were victims of racial discrimination during a December flight on the airline when they were removed after she inquired why her sons, for whom she had purchased extra legroom seats, were relocated to the back of the plane, supposedly because of a weight distribution issue. Then all three were removed from the flight allegedly because the flight attendant in question was uncomfortable with Goggin being on the aircraft and wanted her removed. The airline subsequently declined to refund Goggin for the price of the original seats, and she has since filed a claim with the US Department of Transportation. Should you encounter difficulty with an airline, call their customer service department, or lodge a complaint with the US Department of Transportation at (202) 366-2220.

On Tuesday, February 11th, Borough President Adams participated in a ceremonial 30-year lease signing for the new headquarters for the Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Brooklyn’s first and only community pride center, which will serve as a hub for the 20,000+ LGBTQ+ population throughout the borough. Borough President Adams allocated $1 million in capital funding toward the center’s creation, enabling it to enhance the scope of its services in workforce development, transgender/gender-nonconforming support groups, recovery groups, a pantry of supplies for the homeless, as well as regular sexual health education and testing. The organization is scheduled to move into its new office space in the Bedford Union Armory by year’s end. Borough President Adams and other elected officials held a news conference on Friday, February 7th to demand accountability when a Brooklyn man was shot in the face during an interaction with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Gravesend. The victim, Eric Diaz-Cruz, was treated for the gunshot wound and released, but Borough President noted that the shooting should never have happened, particularly in New York, a sanctuary city. The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

(b.) Borough President Adams called for unity in support of the NYPD in the wake of recent assassination attempts

Tune in to News 12 Brooklyn on Monday, March 9, 2020 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 #BKAshTheBP.

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

The Choice is Yours
In 2021, voters will be able to choose more than one candidate for whom to vote in citywide elections. Ranked Choice Voting, which passed in a voter referendum last year, allows voters to rank their top five candidates in order of preference. If no candidate wins a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and whomever voters picked as their second choice would receive those votes. This process repeats until one candidate receives a majority. In order to ensure this new system is successful, on Wednesday, February 5th, Borough President Adams joined good government group Common Cause New York, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and Council Speaker Corey Johnson to call for a robust voter outreach and education campaign in advance of the 2021 elections. Borough President Adams noted that the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting gave New York City an opportunity to be a national leader when it comes to election reform.

Freedom Riders
On Tuesday, February 18th, Borough President Adams urged the MTA to build on the success of the “Atlantic Ticket” program by implementing the “Freedom Ticket,” a proposal he has championed for years, which would be a single one-way ticket or a weekly or monthly pass valid for travel on both the subway and railroad trains, including Metro North, for less than the price of an LIRR ticket and MetroCard pass together. Adopting this idea wouldn’t just reduce fares for commuters — it would cut down on commute times within the five boroughs.

Shop Rights
Newkirk Plaza in Ditmas Park is the oldest open air shopping mall in the US, dating back to 1901. Yet, for decades, there has been a long-running disagreement between the MTA and the City over whom is responsible for maintaining the space. Due to the disagreement, numerous merchants and surrounding residents have raised concerns about growing sanitation and safety issues. Recognizing the need to keep this historic plaza open and vibrant, Borough President Adams wrote an open letter to Mayor de Blasio on Friday, February 14th, demanding a resolution to the governance issue. In the letter, he wrote, “We believe New York City must take ownership of this issue and address the quality-of-life issues facing this historic plaza.”

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

**EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**

**VARIous TIMES**

SCORE NYC Small Business Mentoring
Brooklyn Borough Hall – Room G-80

**EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY**

**THROUGH APRIL 14TH**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Grow Brooklyn Free Tax Preparation
Brooklyn Borough Hall

**UPCOMING**

Friday, March 6th
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Ghanaian Heritage Celebration
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Sunday, March 8th
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration
New Star Seafood Restaurant

Monday, March 9th
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
International Women’s Day Celebration
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Wednesday, March 11th
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Waterfront Alliance Public Forum
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Thursday, March 12th
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Irish-American Heritage Celebration
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Friday, March 13th
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Arts Council grant awards
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Monday, March 16th
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Honoring High School Coaches
Brooklyn Borough Hall

Thursday, March 26th
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Women’s History Month Celebration
Brooklyn Borough Hall

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENSUS? MAKE BROOKLYN COUNT!

EMAIL BKCCENSUS2020@GMAIL.COM

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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