THE BROOKLYN RESPONSE TO COVID-19
VIEW MORE INSIDE
The Great Equalizer?

As the nation, and the world, has found itself caught in the literal death grip of the novel coronavirus, the aftershocks of the pandemic have dealt devastating blows, particularly here in Brooklyn — one of the first epicenters of the outbreak.

Because the pain, loss, and despair wrought by the virus has left virtually no one unscathed, it could truthfully be called The Great Equalizer. But while the reach of COVID-19 does not discriminate, it’s been proven that the policies initially put in place to track, treat, and respond to it, did shed light on longstanding disparities between the haves and the have nots.

Compelling evidence has shown that the chronically underserved in this borough and throughout this country, largely the members of Black and Brown communities, have become infected, have been denied access to testing and treatment, and have died in disproportionate numbers when compared to other populations. This is wrong, and it must and will be addressed. A more level playing field across all quality-of-life platforms, even in the face of a pandemic, will be the only true equalizer for us all.

—Eric Adams
MAKING THE ROUNDS IN BROOKLYN

ONE BROOKLYN:

(top left) BP Adams partnered with Brooklyn native, actor, and advocate Jeffrey Wright, for the #BrooklynForLife! campaign to raise support and awareness for our hospital workers and local restaurants. Click on the image to view the video

(middle) BP Adams received a donation of 10,000 face masks from New York Taishanese Folks Association

(bottom left) BP Adams visited the new SOMOS-sponsored trilingual COVID-19 testing site in Sunset Park

(bottom right) BP Adams worked with a Vulcan Society volunteer at Brooklyn Borough Hall to package face masks for distribution
THE GIFT OF GIVING:

(top right) BP Adams delivered medical supplies to SUNY Downstate Medical Center with donations of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) from the American Chinese Culture and Education Foundation

(middle) BP Adams delivered hand sanitizer to the 73rd Precinct

(bottom left) BP Adams delivers face masks to the Linden Men’s Shelter where practicing social distancing can be especially difficult

(bottom right) BP Adams distributed masks to passersby along Mother Gaston Boulevard in Brownsville
MAKING ROUNDS

(top right) BP Adams delivered masks to workers at New York Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Sanitation BK 5

(middle) BP Adams dropped a beat on the djembe drum while delivering PPE on Belmont Avenue in Brownsville

(bottom left) BP Adams responded to reports of dozens of decaying bodies being stored in moving trucks outside of a Flatlands funeral home

(bottom right) BP Adams delivered food from Greedi Kitchen to NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull frontline workers
NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

BP Adams was the City’s first elected official to prioritize the residents living in NYCHA communities in providing a personalized COVID-19 response. He delivered food, PPE, Census and COVID-19 information, and made wellness checks on residents.

He was sometimes joined by other elected officials, tenant association representatives, NYCHA police, and community volunteers.

Click on the shaded photos to see videos of the visits. Download this document to hover and see locations.
Please click on the links below to learn more about the BP’s efforts to provide relief and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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April 16, 2020
In Response To Statewide Order Mandating Face Coverings In Public, BP Adams Spotlights Local Manufacturers Seeking To Expand City’s Mask Supply And Calls For New Small Business Grants To Boost Production

April 19, 2020
After Proposals To Cancel Summer Youth Employment Program And Close Public Pools Due To Budget Shortfalls From COVID-19, BP Adams, Public Advocate Williams, And Cure Violence Leaders From All Five Boroughs To Urge City Hall To Create Comprehensive Summer Youth Engagement Plan To Prevent Spike In Violent Crime

April 20, 2020
As Face Coverings Become Mandated Statewide, BP Adams Distributes Masks To Transit Riders At Borough Hall Station, Calls On City To Provide Free Face Coverings For All New Yorkers Upon Request

(top) BP Adams distributed masks with Council Member Ydanis Rodríguez at MetroTech Station while calling for Essential Worker Free Fares

(bottom) BP Adams partnered with Council Member Rafael Salamanca to provide masks and fresh fruit and vegetables to Michelangelo Apartments residents in the Bronx
April 21, 2020
**BP Adams Delivers 200 Plant-Based Meals With Greedi Kitchen At NYC Health + Hospitals/ Woodhull Hospital**

April 22, 2020
**BP Adams Statement On Mayor De Blasio’s And Governor Cuomo’s Recent Commitments Of Support For NYCHA Residents Amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

April 24, 2020
**BP Adams Joins Council Member Ampry-Samuel, Local Law Enforcement Officials, And Cure Violence Groups To Distribute Masks And Encourage Social Distancing In Area With High COVID-19 Infection Rate**

April 24, 2020
**BP Adams Statement On Lawsuits Brought By NYSNA And COBA Against City Alleging Lack Of Protection For Their Members**

(top) BP Adams visited NYCHA Borinquen Plaza in the Bronx with community leaders and officers to deliver food and mask to seniors

(bottom) BP Adams joined Council Member Eric Ulrich at Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens to deliver masks and hand sanitizer, while observing their food distribution operation
April 25, 2020
In Response To Racial Disparities In COVID-19 Data And Lack Of Resources For Underserved Communities, BP Adams, Council Member Cornegy Distribute PPE To Bed-Stuy Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Call For More Diversity On All COVID-19 Recovery Task Forces

April 26, 2020
Outraged Over Indecent Treatment Of Those Who Have Died From COVID-19, BP Adams Demands Reforms In Handling Of Bodies And Burial Processes

April 27, 2020
BP Adams, Council Transportation Chair Rodriguez Call For Free Fares For Essential Employees For Duration Of COVID-19 Pandemic

April 29, 2020
With Food Insecurity Plaguing Communities During Ramadan, BP Adams To Partner With Muslim Community Groups To Kick Off Mobile Ramadan “Break The Fast” Initiative

(top) Virtual vigils are being hosted every Monday. Click the image if you are interested in joining or hosting

(bottom) Faith organizations and individuals are welcome to join in 24 hours of prayer. Click on the image to join
It became increasingly clear that a herculean effort was going to be needed to ensure that residents and businesses could remain safe and economically whole throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President has been active in advocating for and advancing policies to do just this, including:

- Asked for more multilingual information and outreach to communities; Mayor announces $10 million in funding to do this.
- Called on the City to address price gouging; The City has implemented and increased fines for price gouging.
- Called for special hours/express lanes for the elderly/essential workers; Many stores have implemented this policy.
- Called for and delivered face masks for essential workers who were being ignored; Governor signed Executive Order directing employers to provide essential workers with masks/appropriate coverings.
- Called for data-sharing, broken down according to race. Detailed data has begun to be shared and have easier access.
- Called for an investigation into nursing homes’ response to COVID-19; Governor announced that the state attorney general will be investigating.
- Called for better treatment of victims at hospitals/morgues; Money has been granted to defray costs for funerals for those who cannot afford it; there is now expanded morgue and cemetery capacity, and the City has instructed on how to install shelving in refrigerated trucks.
- Called for more virus testing for essential workers; City announced comprehensive frontline worker testing to start soon.
- Along with other electeds and advocates, called for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to be funded; The issue is under consideration.
- Advocated for closing some streets to encourage social distancing; Mayor announced at least 40 miles of streets will be closed; BP sent a letter advocating for those streets to be selected with an eye toward equity and not just around parks.
- Called for a “Hero Grant” program providing restaurants with funds to cook meals for frontline workers.
- Called for extension of Grab-and-Go hours for meals. Brooklyn location resource guide below.

FROM THE DESK OF ERIC ADAMS:
- Letter Calling for Tuition Freeze for CUNY Students
- Letter Calling for Equity in Street Closure Plan
- Letter Calling for Hero Grants for Restaurants
- Letter Calling for Modified Reinstatement of Street Cleaning Services
- Letter Calling for Adequate Laundry Services in Red Hook
- Letter Calling for Protection of Arts Funding in City Budget

(top) Grab and Go Sites in Brooklyn location resource guide
While Brooklyn Borough Hall remains closed, digital workshops and programming launched in April to continue to provide for our communities.

Social Distance Safe Programming

Stay tuned for new offerings as they develop.
DAILY LIVING:

A snapshot of the virtual webinars and messaging for our communities is available on the Brooklyn Borough President's YouTube page.

Click on the images to navigate to the videos.

(top) BP Adams message for Ramadan

(middle) BP Adams conversation about climate change

(bottom) BP Message to the Class of 2020
For specific COVID-19 inquiries, click here.

To help feed First Responders, click here.

For all other inquiries, email askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or call 718.802.3700

For real-time updates, follow:
Facebook: Eric Adams
Twitter: @BPEricAdams
Instagram: @BPEricAdams

Sign up for e-blasts here. Spanish e-blast updates, click here.

#BrooklynStrong

All photos and graphics courtesy of Brooklyn Borough Hall
NOTE: The photos in this edition reflect a progression of physical distancing and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) protocols over time.