BROOKLYN: A BOROUGH OF HEROES

BROOKLYNITE ANTHONY FAUCI, MD WAS HONORED ALONG WITH OTHER BOROUGH HEROES
It’s been quite a year.

Although 2020 came in with the usual hope and anticipation that a new year brings, what quickly became clear was that this year was going to be far from “usual.” Nothing could have prepared us for the upheaval, the turmoil, and the terror that most of us have individually experienced as we worked our way through a year that we’ll likely never forget. And throughout 2020, there were first responders, activists, and essential workers that were rightfully identified as heroes by rising to the occasion to serve during some of our country’s darkest hours.

A hero is defined as “a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.” So it’s in this spirit that I recognize all Brooklynites—who, in a New York minute, had to become caretakers, remote teachers and learners, survivalists, and warriors—as heroes, just by the mere fact that you are still fighting to make Brooklyn a better place, and attempting to move forward, even when the road ahead is uncertain and uncharted.

The figures to date are stark: There have been nearly 320,000 diagnoses of COVID-19 and approximately 24,300 deaths in New York City as of the beginning of December as a result of the pandemic; nearly 3,000 small businesses citywide have closed for good; close to 1,000 New York City restaurants and bars have permanently closed; New York City’s unemployment rate is at 16 percent, compared to 8.4 percent nationwide, following the city’s hemorrhaging of 689,000 jobs from its peak. All of this has required unprecedented and extraordinary responses on the part of every New Yorker affected. But despite the bumps, bruises, and broken hearts, Brooklyn has stood strong and remains resilient.

Now, an equally difficult phase of our “new normal” begins, where we must rebound and rebuild. But I know we can do it, because we’ve done it before—after a Wall Street collapse, a superstorm, and even a terrorist attack. The secret weapon is you. And the efforts can start slowly and locally. Connect safely with loved ones. Support local businesses. Be a good neighbor. Show and spread kindness. Wear a mask and socially distance. Each act can build on the next, reaching across every Brooklyn neighborhood and into every home. That’s what heroes do. It’s not an “S” on your chest that makes you a hero. It’s the strength and depth of the heart that lies beneath that is the true measure.

Stay safe and stay strong. I wish you a happy and safe holiday season and the best of blessings in 2021.

—Eric Adams
RECOGNIZING HEROES:

BP Adams honored a second round of Brooklyn heroes at Borough Hall on 11/10
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY:

(top left) BP Adams and Council Member Robert Cornegy pitched in during a graffiti cleanup in Bedford-Stuyvesant

(middle) BP Adams rallied outside New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital to support the reopening of psychiatric beds at the hospital

(bottom left) BP Adams rode the subway in support of TWU Local 100 and advocates’ efforts to save transit

(bottom right) BP Adams paid tribute at a Veterans Day ceremony at the Brooklyn War Memorial
FEEDING BROOKLYN:

(top, right) BP Adams joined The Campaign Against Hunger and Hunts Point Market for a Thanksgiving produce distribution

(middle) BP Adams showed off his “I Voted” sticker as he encouraged others to go vote during the 2020 Presidential election

(bottom) BP Adams hosted his annual Plantsgiving fresh produce distribution at Borough Hall
Please click on the links below to learn more about BP Adams’ efforts to provide relief and services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the work being undertaken at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

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November 2, 2020
BP Adams Removes Graffiti From Private Business Along Atlantic Avenue, Calls On City To Address Major Uptick Of Vandalism Throughout Five Boroughs

November 4, 2020
BP Adams Statement On Ongoing Election Count

November 7, 2020
BP Adams Statement On 2020 Presidential Election Results

November 11, 2020
BP Adams Honors Brooklyn COVID Heroes At Brooklyn Borough Hall, Including Dr. Anthony Fauci

November 12, 2020
BP Adams Statement On Potential School Closures Due To Rising COVID-19 Cases

November 17, 2020
BP Adams, Brooklyn Community Services Unveil Brooklyn’s First Shower Bus Serving Borough’s Homeless Population

(above, top) BP Adams held a press conference to denounce the recent mass shooting in Bedford-Stuyvesant
November 18, 2020
BP Adams Statement On NYC School Closures

November 19, 2020
After MTA Lays Out Dire Budgetary Situation, BP Adams Releases Letter To Senate Majority Leader McConnell And House Speaker Pelosi Urgently Demanding Federal Funding To Avert Service Cutbacks

November 20, 2020
Amid Unprecedented Thanksgiving Season, BP Adams Hosts Socially-Distanced “Plantsgiving” Distribution

November 24, 2020
BP Adams Statement On Passing Of Former Mayor David Dinkins

November 27, 2020
To Boost Local Shopping During Covid-19 Crisis, BP Adams, Business Leaders Call For Local “Sales Tax Holiday For The Holidays” On Black Friday

November 29, 2020
BP Adams Statement On Plan To Reopen Schools

(above, top) BP Adams attended the ribbon cutting at Qahwah House coffee house in Williamsburg
While the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President continues to provide policy guidance, relief efforts, and advocacy to combat the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the work of the borough continues in other areas as well. Check out what my office has been doing throughout the month of November:

• BP Adams partnered with Brooklyn Community Services to launch a first of its kind shower bus so that people experiencing homelessness can have access to basic hygiene services.

• BP Adams called for public schools to be reopened, citing that the decision to close schools should be based on school COVID incidence numbers, not citywide numbers. Beginning December 7th, pre-K and elementary schools began in person learning again.

• BP Adams called for expansion of broadband access. NYC subsequently announced a deal with Verizon to reach 500,000 more households, but more needs to be done.

• BP Adams, in partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzales, Wegmans, MetroPlus Health, National Grid, Ponce Bank, and UA3, distributed more than 50,000 pounds of fresh produce to food pantries and Brooklyn residents for Thanksgiving.

• BP Adams called on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to fully fund the MTA.

• BP Adams partnered with Council Member Robert Cornegy and the Doe Fund to help subsidize the renovation of transitional housing at 528 Gates Avenue.

• BP Adams stood with the New York State Nurses Association in calling for the reopening of psychiatric hospital beds in local hospitals.

• BP Adams awarded $500,000 to expand BioBat at the Brooklyn Army Terminal to assist in the continuation of their biotechnology research.

• BP Adams co-sponsored legislation with Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez to allow non-citizen permanent residents to vote in municipal elections.

• BP Adams opened protected bike lanes on Flatbush Avenue and Fourth Avenue in an effort to provide safer streets for all New Yorkers.
From my home, to yours, I send wishes to every Brooklynite for a safe and peaceful holiday season, however you commemorate.

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:
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#BrooklynStrong

Photos and graphics courtesy of Brooklyn Borough Hall.