GAME PLAN:
AN AGRARIAN ECONOMY NOT ONLY FEEDS OUR COMMUNITIES BUT PROVIDES RESOURCES TO RECOVER FROM ILLNESS AND DISEASE
THE CASE FOR A NEW ECONOMY

With 2020 behind us, we have seen the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) categorically disrupt and displace our lives — everything we knew about our world, our society, our way of life, has been upended by a health crisis unseen by the United States for more than a century. This pandemic has also unearthed and exacerbated the fragilities in our already-compromised food, employment, and housing systems across our City. And despite the food delivery programs now in place, there is not yet concrete end-of-sight relief for the current public health and food insecurity “one-two punch” crises facing so many New Yorkers.

Throughout this pandemic, I have been delivering food, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other necessities to Brooklynites and other New Yorkers. The unmet needs I have seen convinced me of the dire need to learn lessons from our last pandemic, the Great Influenza of 1918, to reimagine a stronger and more sustainable New York City.

What is not talked about is that prior to the onset of COVID-19, New York City was experiencing an epidemic of chronic disease. As we have learned, those suffering from chronic diseases also suffer from the worse outcomes of COVID-19. By continuously failing to address the causes and roots of consistent, pervasive rates of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic conditions, national leaders were priming the nation — and disproportionately its Black and Brown people — to experience the effects of a viral pandemic that much worse and more intensely. It is imperative that New York City ensure sufficient access to nutritious and healthy foods for all its residents, regardless of race or economic status, to make certain they have the resources and abilities to prevent and reverse chronic illness.

The revitalization and expansion of urban agriculture is a key component to unlocking the economic growth and employment opportunities we need for healthier constituents, and ultimately, a healthier planet. Since the beginning of my tenure as president of the borough of Brooklyn, I have invested money, time, and public advocacy into expanding urban agriculture here in Brooklyn and throughout the city through innovative partnerships between government, entrepreneurs, and community members. Feel free to access my office’s “New Agrarian Economy” report (click image below) to access a blueprint for a 21st century agrarian economy as the way forward for our city.

——Eric Adams

Click above to read the “New Agrarian Economy” report
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.

--------------------------------------------

February 2, 2021
BP Adams Statement on Official Landmark Designation of 227 Duffield Street

February 2, 2021
BP Adams, CM Lander, and CM Cornegy Announce Recently-Passed Street Co-Namings Honoring Newspaper Journalist Pete Hamill and Slain Black Teenager Yusuf Hawkins

February 11, 2021
As NYC Restaurants Prepare to Reopen for Indoor Dining this Weekend, BP Adams, Elected Leaders Join Restaurant Owners and Workers to Demand Clear Timeline for Higher Capacity Limits, Extended Hours

February 13, 2021
BP Adams Statement on Series of Subway Stabbings Last Night

February 15, 2021
After Tragic Series of Stabbings Highlights Surge in Subway Violence, BP Adams Demands Reforms that Ensure Greater Mental Health Support and Public Safety Coordination

February 17, 2021
Committee on Health Advances Legislation from BP Adams and CM Miller to Create Vaccination Equity and Improve COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout, Sponsored by Majority of Council Members

February 22, 2021

February 27, 2021
BP Adams Statement On Surge In Anti-Asian Hate Crimes In New York City
POLICY INITIATIVES

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 February:

- BP Adams partnered with NYU and Cornell to release the “New Agrarian Economy” report, discussing how we can develop urban agriculture to improve our economy, our health, and our environment.
- BP Adams, in partnership with nearly three dozen elected officials, advocates, and businesses, called on the State to categorize barbers, hair stylists, nail salon workers, and other beauty industry employees as essential workers so they can get vaccinated for COVID-19. These businesses are largely staffed by women, people of color, and immigrants, who have been hit hardest by COVID-19.
- BP Adams stood with the New York State Nurses Association to call for passage of the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act, which will require a better nurse to patient ratio, and increased staffing at hospitals.
- BP Adams continued his Wellness Wednesdays series with an overview of Elder Law and Caretaking for Caretakers 101 with PSS Circle of Care. These workshops helped support caregivers and stressed the importance of getting planning documents in order.
- BP Adams renewed his push to allow non-citizen residents to vote in municipal elections.
- BP Adams continued to push for legislation that will require COVID19 resource coordination between the City and State and the release of real-time data so we can see who is being vaccinated and prioritize outreach appropriately.
- BP Adams renewed his call for community input in the selection of, and strong accountability measures for, Precinct Commanders.
- BP Adams released a four-point plan to improve safety on subways and mass transportation by expanding mental health outreach, improving coordination between transit patrols and street patrols, expanding the role of 311 and allowing travelers to more easily report situations that may be an issue, and strengthening Kendra’s Law to allow more court-ordered outpatient treatment.
- BP Adams held an information session in partnership with the DOE’s Office of Family and Community Engagement on how to become a Community Education Council member.
- BP Adams rallied with Let Them Play NYC to call for restarting school sports teams in a safe manner. Team sports teach more than just athletics — they teach cooperation, hard work, and how to overcome adversity.
- BP Adams helped secure 227 Duffield Street as a landmark in NYC. The building’s history as home to prominent abolitionists makes it an important marker in Black history.
- In partnership with the Park Slope/Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District, BP Adams held a roundtable with small business owners to discuss how we can work together to recover from the devastation of COVID-19.
- BP Adams held a Black History Month Clergy Celebration in partnership with Health First and Thrivent entitled: Faith, Forgiveness, and Accountability: Charting a New Course, as well as a youth-oriented Black History Month program titled Civic Engagement: You Marched, Now What? to highlight tools to fully mobilize our communities towards social justice.
Brooklyn is continuing to unite its residents virtually with our programming.

(top, pair) The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President hosted programs honoring Lunar New Year 2021, beginning with the Chinese Temple Festival 2021 and the Lunar New Year 2021 Celebration. (Click the image to view the Celebration event)

(bottom, pair) The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President started up “Wellness Wednesdays” workshops again, including “Caregiving 101” and “Elder Law”. (Click the images to view each of the events)
(top) The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President hosted its annual faith-based Black History Month event. 
(Click the image to view the event)

(middle) The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President hosted a panel discussion focused on civic engagement. 
(Click the image to view the event)

(bottom) The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President continues its work with CM Eugene, NYC Housing Preservation and Development, and Economic Development Corporation to advance a proper memorial at an African American Burial Ground in Flatbush.
COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

For information on the NYC Vaccine for All campaign, click here.

To determine if you are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, check here.

Eligible categories include:

- All outpatient and ambulatory frontline, high-risk health care providers who provide in-person patient care or other staff in a position where they have direct contact with patients of any age. This includes hospital and community-based ambulatory care, primary care, and outpatient behavioral health service providers; phlebotomists; physical and occupational therapists; and specialty clinics, including dialysis centers.
- All frontline, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients
- Health care workers at COVID-19 testing sites
- High-risk hospital and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) staff
- Dentists
- Emergency medical service (EMS) personnel
- Medical examiners and coroners
- Funeral workers who have direct contact with infectious material and bodily fluids
- Staff and residents in congregate living facilities run by the NYS Offices for People With Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and Addiction Services and Supports
- Urgent care providers
- Staff administering the COVID-19 vaccine
- Staff at dental practices of all types
- Those 65 years of age and older
- Other non-health care essential workers like teachers, taxi drivers, delivery workers, regional food bank paid or unpaid workers, food pantry paid or unpaid workers, permitted home-delivered meal program paid or unpaid workers, and hotel workers who have direct contact with guests

State-run vaccination sites are now open for eligible New Yorkers. Vaccinations are by appointment only. To determine eligibility and schedule an appointment to receive their first dose, New Yorkers can utilize the state’s Am I Eligible app or call the New York State Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4VAX (1-833-697-4829). Appointments to receive the second dose at these sites are scheduled in-person after receiving the first dose. New Yorkers should not attempt to book their second appointment online.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/

NYC Dept of Health: https://www1.nyc.gov/

NYC Vaccine Finder https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/

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: BKboroHall
Twitter: @BKboroHall
Instagram: @BKboroHall

Sign up for e-blasts here.

#BrooklynStrong

Photos and graphics courtesy of Brooklyn Borough Hall. Published March 2, 2021