

ACROSS THE BOARD

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COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Ms. Tamika Gibbs

was appointed to the Board in 2017 and is the Board's Sergeant at Arms. Ms. Gibbs is also the Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Gibbs states, "I joined the board because I wanted to be an active part of the process and not a bystander. As a lifelong Brooklynite, I witnessed so many residents' concerns on different issues go unspoken because people either did not want, or were unable to set aside time to resolve/address their issues with the appropriate audiences. I realized early that I needed to be a catalyst for the voiceless." She brings that voice to the Health and Human Services, Public Safety, SLA & Sidewalk Café Review, and Cannabis Committees.

Ms. Gibbs recalls a time when she was often the youngest person in the room asking questions and impressing some of the older members of the Board who ultimately inspired her to apply for membership.

Ms. Gibbs states that she lives life keeping in mind two quotes: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth" (Muhammed Ali), and "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back" (Maya Angelou).

District Manager's Report

JOIN CB8!

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso has begun accepting community board membership applications. The application period will run through February 14, 2025, and prospective members are encouraged to apply early and attend meetings to familiarize yourself with community boards. Current members up for renewal are encouraged to submit their reappointment application early as well. To apply, go to <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/community-boards/>. If you need assistance completing your application, you may make an appointment with Julia at the District office and she will assist you.



Municipal Services Update

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/02/2024 through 12/08/2024.

	Year-to-Date		
	2024	2023	%Chg
Murder	12	7	71.4
Rape	21	20	5.0
Robbery	184	209	-12.0
Felony Assault	374	396	-5.6
Burglary	140	178	-21.3
Grand Larceny	349	386	-9.6
GL Auto	104	158	-34.2

The overall change year-to-date is **-20.2**.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time to celebrate with loved ones, but also a prime time for fires to occur. More than one-third of home fires occur during the months of December, January and February. It's important to celebrate safely. Here are some safety tips to make sure you and your loved can be #FDNYSmart this holiday season:

Shop Smart When Purchasing Gifts

- Beware of purchasing devices with dangerous, uncertified lithium-ion batteries.
- Un-certified lithium-ion batteries are illegal in New York City.
- Only buy certified lithium-ion batteries and devices, that are stamped with UL symbol. Certified lithium-ion batteries have been tested to meet national safety standards. Not all products sold online are certified. Carefully read the product listing, website and operating manual.

Tips for Christmas Trees

- When picking a tree, shake it to check for dryness. If too many dry needles fall, choose a fresher tree.
- Cut trees 2 inches from the base of the trunk before placing the tree to help keep it fresher longer.
- Keep the tree at least three feet away from any heat source.
- Add water to the tree stand and water the tree daily.
- Dispose of the tree immediately after Christmas or when it becomes dry. Dried trees pose an increased fire hazard.

Decorations and Lighting

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant, flame retardant, or created with noncombustible materials.
- Do not overload electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips.
- Turn off all lights before leaving the home or going to bed.

- Use lights and electrical decorations that are stamped with UL symbol.
- Inspect new and used lights before using them. Replace strings of lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read instructions to learn the number of light strands you can safely connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights, so the cords do not get damaged.

Candles

- Use sturdy candle holders, with flame-protective non-combustible (glass or metal) shades or globes.
- Place candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, blinds, kitchen cabinets and bedding.
- Place candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- Extinguish candles when they burn within two inches of the holder.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Secure hair and clothing, such as sleeves or aprons, from the flame when handling candles.
- Keep candles, matches and lighters, including lit memorial containers and Chanukah menorahs, out of reach of children

Cooking

- Don't leave food cooking unattended; Stand by Your Pan!
- Keep the area around the stove clear of anything that could burn (paper towels, papers, potholders, etc.)
- Cook with indicated temperature settings, refrain from using higher temperature settings.
- **In the event of a pot or pan fire, turn off the heat and cover it with a lid. Do not use water! It could cause splashing and spread the fire.**

To help raise awareness throughout the holiday season, we encourage you to watch the following public service announcement videos from FDNY Commissioner Robert Tucker (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1646512902912413>) and from Firefighter Darren Grant

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=239247537537563>).

For more information on staying safe and practicing fire safety, visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/>.

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### ***A NOTE FROM BK08 SANITATION GARAGE***

Winter is here! Even though it hasn't snowed heavily in a few years, DSNY is ALWAYS ready to fight the snow and ice! Interim Superintendent Caputo would like to remind everyone to please be mindful of DSNY employees when we are out and about, encouraging residents to stay off the streets during snow situations, salt your sidewalks, and give the agency time to perform their jobs to make your commute to and from home an easy as possible one!

Regarding NYC Setout Rules for 1-9 Unit Residential Properties, you may have noticed that the department is issuing warnings for the new Set Out rule, indicating that you MUST be containerized. Please note that the warning period ends on January 2, 2025. After that, the warnings for non-compliance will result in violation. You are urged to begin using trash bins with tightly fitted lids sooner rather than later!

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UTICA AVENUE CLEANUP

Join Bridge Street, in collaboration with the Sanitation Foundation, on Saturday, December 14, at 10 AM for a clean-up of Utica Avenue, from Empire Boulevard to Atlantic Avenue. The goal of this event is to engage with merchants and continue efforts to establish a merchant association on Utica Avenue.

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### ***CON EDISON ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM***

Did you know that you may be eligible for financial assistance with your energy bills? You may qualify for a discount on your monthly energy bill if you

receive benefits from the following eligible governmental assistance programs:

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Direct Vendor or Utility Guarantee
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- Safety Net Assistance (SNA)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension
- Lifeline Telephone Service Program (Lifeline)

To find our more information or to enroll, visit <https://bit.ly/4irPn5z>. (link is case sensitive)

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FREE ENERGY UPGRADES AND HOME REPAIRS

EnergyFit is a free program that helps homeowners make critical repairs, seal and weatherize their homes, and upgrade to electric appliances (improvements valued between \$25,000 and \$30,000) so you can save money, breathe cleaner air, and keep your home comfortable all year round.

You may be eligible for the service if any of the following applies to you:

- The owner and occupant of a 2- or 3-family building
- Struggling to afford critical health and safety repairs for you or your tenants
- Too cold in the winter and/or too hot in the summer?
- Currently using gas appliances?
- Located in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of East New York, Cypress Hills, Brownsville, Bed-Stuy, Crown Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens?
- In a household that makes less than 130% of the Area Median Income annually?

If you are eligible for the program and would like to learn more or apply, call Pratt Center at 718-636-3496 or visit www.energyfitnyc.com.

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### ***CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD***

The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is an independent agency. It is empowered to receive, investigate, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers alleging the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. The Board's investigative staff, composed entirely of civilian employees, conducts investigations in an impartial fashion. The Board forwards its findings to the police commissioner.

If you wish to file a complaint regarding excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, offensive language, or racial profiling and bias-based policing against a member of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/complaints/file-a-complaint/file-complaint.page>.

To report issues not involving the NYPD, please call 311 or go to <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/report-problems/#pills-all-by-category>.

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CONGESTION PRICING

Starting January 5, 2025, vehicles entering the Congestion Relief Zone in Manhattan (local streets and avenues at or below 60 St) will be charged a toll. Supporters predict that the program will reduce traffic, improve air quality, and fund better public transit.

Through the month of December, the MTA will host public webinars where you can learn about Congestion Relief Zone tolling. Webinars will explain why New York needs Congestion Pricing, how the Congestion Relief Zone works, what the toll rates are, who is eligible for discounts and exemptions, and how to prepare before tolling

begins January 5, 2025. The sessions will feature a brief presentation, followed by Q&A.

To learn more about the sessions and register to attend, visit www.mta.info/crzwebinars.

The toll amount will depend on the type of vehicle, time of day, whether any crossing credits apply, and the method of payment. Most vehicles with EZ-Pass will be charged \$9 in the peak period or \$2.25 overnight, once daily. Discounts or exemptions may apply, so please visit www.mta.info/discounts for more details.

For more information on the Congestion Relief Zone, visit www.congestionreliefzone.mta.info. You can also sign up for newsletter updates at www.mta.info/crznewsletter.

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### ***SINGING TREE-ANGELS***

Join the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District at the 6th Ave Triangle (6th Avenue & Flatbush Avenue) on Tuesday, December 17th at 5 PM for an unforgettable evening of music and lights!

Enjoy a special live piano performance by Karl Larson (@karllarsonpiano), featuring his original piece Canopy. Watch as the holiday lights come alive as they interact with the sound of music, creating a magical, interactive experience! Bring your friends, family, & furry pals, and celebrate the holidays with us under the lights!

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CONGRESSIONAL CAREER FAIR

Congressional members Yvette Clarke, Hakeem Jeffries, Nydia Velazquez, and Dan Goldman will be hosting a Congressional Career Fair on Friday, December 20th from 10AM-2PM at City Tech College, 300 Jay Street. Register at <https://jeffries.house.gov/events/>.

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### ***NYC CHILDREN CAREERS***

Start your career today by becoming a Child Protective Specialist. The NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) is hiring qualified candidates for CPS. Qualifications include a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university, demonstration of English language proficiency, and passage of comprehensive drug screening. Priority candidates are those that speak additional languages other than English including Spanish, Russian, Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Urdu, and African languages. For consideration, email your resume and proof of education to [CAREERSatACS@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:CAREERSatACS@acs.nyc.gov) by December 16, 2024.



### ***CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH ASSOCIATION***

The CHNA Annual Holiday Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:45PM at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.



### ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN STEFANI ZINERMAN***

Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman of the 56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District would like to share the following news, updates, and events with you!

You are encouraged to register for the Harriet Tubman Birthday & Legacy Tour (2025), a 5 day cultural tour that will explore key sites of the underground railroad in New York State and Canada. Register at her office by calling 718-399-7630.

- Holiday Lights Xmas Caravan on Saturday, December 14, 2024. The trolley leaves from Restoration Plaza at 6PM.
- The annual Holiday Party will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 from 4-8 PM at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street.

### ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM COUNCILMEMBER CRYSTAL HUDSON***

Councilmember Crystal Hudson of the 35<sup>th</sup> Council District, is pleased to share the following information with the community:

“It’s important to hold space for all the conflicting emotions we may be feeling. The month post-election has brought some big changes and it’s okay if you’re feeling uncertain, anxious, sad, or afraid—you are not alone. Join the member for Coffee With Crystal Saturday, December 14th from 9-11am at the Brooklyn Museum Café to bring neighbors together, debrief, and discern how we move forward together.”

Legislative Update: “The City Council hosted another Stated Meeting where it voted on and passed unanimously two more bills in Crystal’s Age in Place 2.0 package. The two bills require the Commissioner for NYC Aging to conduct a three-year study on NORCs (Int 1022) and mandate NYC Aging to create a 10-year aging in place plan (Int 1054). The Council also approved the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity proposal, which could bring 82,000 new units of housing to our city and help address our housing crisis. The Speaker also secured \$5 billion in funding from the Adams administration and Governor Hochul to preserve and finance deeply affordable housing, support affordable homeownership, and protect tenants. You can find a breakdown of the \$5 billion at <https://council.nyc.gov/press/2024/11/25/2758/>.”

Additionally, the member hosts a free legal clinic every Thursday from 2 to 6PM by appointment only and every Wednesday, the member hosts a free housing clinic with Churches United for Fair Housing (CUFF) from 11AM to 5PM. Walk-ins welcome.

For more information or to RSVP for any of the upcoming events, please call 718-260-9191.





***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM  
COUNCILMEMBER CHI OSSE***

Councilmember Chi Ossé of the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District, would like to remind the community that Housing Info with CUFFH Affordable Housing Services is held every Tuesday from Noon to 5 p.m. All services are provided at the Councilmember's office located at 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 500. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 718-919-0740.

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***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM
COUNCILWOMAN DARLENE MEALY***

Councilwoman Mealy is pleased to share the following information with the community:

- The next Community Advisory Board meeting will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 400 Rockaway Avenue from 11 to 12:30PM. Toy giveaway to immediately follow from 1PM to 3PM.
- Free housing assistance is offered in the office every Tuesday.
- Free legal immigration assistance every Monday.

All services are offered at the Councilwoman's office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue. To register or more information, call their office at 718-953-3097.

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The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at a location yet to be determined. Please call 718-735-0634.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Chairperson Irsa Weatherspoon, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Dr. Sarah Lazur, Ms. Frances Langley, and Mr. Conor Ross, who will all celebrate a birthday in the month of December.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at Chelsea Piers Prospect Heights located at 601 Dean Street, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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***ACROSS THE BOARD*** is a monthly publication:  
**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
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