

ACROSS THE BOARD

JANUARY 2025

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A Note from CB8 Chairperson:

A heartfelt thanks to all of our CB8 staff, board members, the community and our partners for your passion, diligence, hard work and heart of service as we continue to strive for our district's optimal best.

In this new year, let us be mindful and inclusive as we remain steadfast in our reasonable service for excellence in our community.

May your year be filled with an abundance of wisdom, peace, prosperity and love!

Make it a Blessed Year!
Irsa Weatherspoon, CB 8 Chairperson

Unity in Community...You Cannot Have Community Without Unity!

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***JOIN COMMUNITY BOARD 8!***

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 can make an appointment with Julia at the District office and she will assist you.

***COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!***



**Mr. Brian Saunders**

was appointed to the Board in 2017. He currently serves as Chair of the Economic Development Committee and President of the 77th Precinct Community Council.

Mr. Saunders states, "The definition of 'Community' to me is the sense of togetherness that strangers have that make them neighbors. In true communities, neighbors are able to co-exist peacefully and work together to change any condition(s) that disturb the sense of harmony."

Mr. Saunders states that he learned to understand community values at an early age, and watching not only his mother (a long time CB8 member that also served as First Vice Chair), but almost everyone in the family be of service and give back in some way, shape, or form has been the driving factor behind his membership on the Board and his position with the 77th Precinct Community Council.

He cites as one of his greatest gifts is the ability to bring people together, and that's why his most memorable experience in service has been the personable connections made with the business owners and employees on the commercial corridors in the District.

Mr. Saunders lives by the words, "I'd rather be seen doing [things of importance] rather than doing things to be seen."

*District Manager's Report*

*Municipal Services Update*

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 01/06/2025 through 01/12/2025.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2025         | 2024 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 0            | 0    | ***   |
| Rape           | 0            | 0    | ***   |
| Robbery        | 3            | 7    | -57.1 |
| Felony Assault | 10           | 8    | 25.0  |
| Burglary       | 7            | 1    | 600   |
| Grand Larceny  | 15           | 10   | 50    |
| GL Auto        | 5            | 2    | 150   |

The overall change year-to-date is **42.86**.

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HEAT SEASON

Building owners are legally required to provide heat and hot water to their tenants. Hot water must be provided 365 days per year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat must be provided between October 1st and May 31st, i.e. "Heat Season," under the following conditions:

Between the hours of 6:00am and 10:00pm, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am, the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you are a tenant without heat or hot water, contact your landlord first. This is the easiest way to resolve a housing quality issues. If your landlord is unresponsive, file a complaint by calling 311 or using the 311 app.

COLD WEATHER FIRE SAFETY

Cold and winter weather can bring dangerously low temperatures, heavy snow, strong winds, ice, sleet and freezing rain. People can get sick, injured and even die from cold temperatures and winter storms. Spending time in the cold (both indoors and outdoors) can be dangerous, especially for people who:

- Are homeless and not in shelters
- Drink heavily or use drugs
- Live in a home without heat and:
 - Are 65 years and older
 - Are infants
 - Have certain medical conditions, such as heart and lung disease, high blood pressure or diabetes
 - Have serious mental health conditions or developmental disabilities
 - Have physical disabilities that limit mobility

Prepare for the cold and winter weather before it arrives to stay safe and healthy throughout the season.

- Make sure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. They should be installed in areas that provide the most safety including on each floor, in areas where people sleep, in the home near the entrance to attached garages, and within 10 feet of boiler rooms.
- Make sure you have warm clothing you can layer, as well as gloves, a hat and sturdy shoes and/or boots.
- Talk to your at-risk friends and family and make a plan to support them when the weather turns cold.
- Review the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite so that you can identify them quickly and know when to call 911.

If you find yourself without heat in your home, heat your home safely until it is fixed.

- Never use a stove, oven or charcoal grill to heat your home. Kerosene heaters and propane space heaters are illegal in NYC.
- If you use an electric space heater, only plug it directly into the wall outlet. This is called a

grounded outlet and is safer for space heaters than an extension cord or surge protector.

- Unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire, such as curtains or tablecloths. Do not hang clothes over a space heater to dry.

Stay safe outdoors by keeping warm with layers. Keep warm and cover all exposed skin. Watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite, which are serious conditions caused by spending long periods of time in very cold temperatures.

Hypothermia is when your body temperature drops to a dangerously low level and can lead to death. Symptoms include intense shivering, sluggishness, dizziness, drowsiness, trouble speaking, confusion, lack of coordination, and shallow breathing.

Frostbite is when parts of the body freeze, especially your fingers, toes, ears, nose and cheeks and can cause permanent damage include limb loss. Symptoms include red and painful skin or pale skin, unusually firm or waxy skin, and numbness.

Call 911 or go to the emergency room right away if you see symptoms of hypothermia or frostbite.



6 NEW LAWS IN EFFECT IN THE NEW YEAR

2025 ushered in several new initiatives and changes to the way New Yorkers drive, live, and work, and now, how we even pay for medicine. Below is a snippet of six (6) of the new laws in effect or soon to be in effect in the city this year. (Note: this is copied from the *Patch*.)

1. Congestion Pricing is in effect. Drivers entering parts of Manhattan have to pay a fee.

For the hours between 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends, drivers will be charged \$9. All other times, drivers will be charged \$2.25.

However, drivers who earn less than \$50,000 a year will get a 50 percent discount on every toll after the 10th toll each month, according to the MTA.

2. No more mandatory broker fees

The Fairness in Apartment Rentals Act shifts the responsibility of paying the broker — the liaison who shows the apartment and strikes a deal between the renter and the owner — to the person who hired the broker. This new city law stops tenants from being forced to pay for a broker they didn't hire. The New York City Council passed it with a supermajority in mid-November, and it is set to take effect in June 2025.

3. It's now illegal to sell dinner reservations

In mid-December, Governor Kathy Hochul signed off on legislation that outlaws third-party services that book and sell restaurant reservations to exclusive places, calling the services "predatory" for making consumers pay extra for a table in demand. The law will take effect in February 2025.

4. The minimum wage has increased

The city's minimum wage increased to \$16.50 an hour. Now, all tipped service employees must be paid at least \$13.75 per hour with a \$2.75 "tip credit," and all tipped food service workers must be paid at least \$11.00 per hour with a \$5.50 "tip credit" according to the city.

5. Pregnant people now get additional time off from work for appointments

On Jan. 1, a new law went into effect that allows privately employed pregnant people to get up to 20 hours of additional paid time off at work to go to prenatal appointments and any other medical care related to pregnancy. This law is the first of its kind in the country.

6. Ban on co-pays for insulin

Insulin, the prescription drug that helps people manage their diabetes, is entirely covered by insurance statewide for most insurance plans.

Now, most insurance plans also must cover equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes, in addition to insulin, according to the state Department of Financial Services.

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***HRA BENEFIT OFFICE MOVING***

HRA's CBIC/EBT Services Office, working in partnership with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is moving! The current location on the 1st Floor at 227 Schermerhorn Street (aka 250 Livingston Street), Brooklyn, NY 11201 is slated to close on Friday, January 31, 2025.

The new location on the 1st Floor at 785 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238 is slated to open Monday, February 3, 2025.

This office offers centralized in-person, same-day over-the-counter client services to distribute new and replacement benefit cards. The cards are produced on site. These cards are for individuals receiving Cash Assistance (CA), Medicaid Assistance (MA), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits from HRA through the EBT system. The CBIC/EBT Services Office staff help HRA clients establish their confidential Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) for accessing SNAP benefits at authorized food retailers and CA benefits at participating ATMs, food retailers and other authorized sites. The CBIC/EBT Services Office staff also provide EBT education, resolve issues that impede benefit access, monitor OTDA contractor activity for slowdowns and outages, and implement alternative card issuance processes in case of system failures affecting normal CBIC/EBT Services Office operations.

If you have any questions about this relocation in relation to constituent services, please contact DSS at [intergov@dss.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@dss.nyc.gov) or 718-557-1399.

***APPLY FOR COUNCIL FUNDING***

Please be advised that all not-for-profit community-based organizations that wish to apply for discretionary funding for FY2026 must submit a Council Application. The FY2026 application is posted on the Council's website and the submission deadline will be on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025.

Visit <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/> for more information and to apply.

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***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM BROOKLYN
BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANTONIO
REYNOSO***

Borough President Reynoso's Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Applications are now open! Each year, Borough Presidents are provided with an allotment of capital funding that they can appropriate to eligible projects. These projects can include improvements for academic institutions, affordable housing development, community centers, cultural organizations, economic development, hospitals, libraries, parks, streetscapes, and more.

To learn more and apply, visit www.bit.ly/FY26BKCA by February 20, 2025.

Sign up for personalized support to resolve your DOB summonses! Wednesday, January 22, 2025 from 1 PM – 7 PM at Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, 276 Chestnut Street Brooklyn, NY 11208.

Every other Monday from January 13, 2025 to May 12, 2025, you can speak to a Brooklyn Borough President Constituent Services representative at the Cortelyou Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. Hours are 10 AM – 5:30 PM, and Brooklyn Public Library Cortelyou Branch is located at 1305 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226.

For more information on any of the Borough President's initiatives, call his office at 718-802-3700.



BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY CLASSES

The Eastern Parkway Branch of Brooklyn Public Library is pleased to offer several screenings, seminars, and classes to the public. These free programs are open to the public.

On Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 4PM, celebrate the New Year with a mindful collage of your 2025 manifestations. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring images with you. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3PrunOT>.

Do you need help with rental assistance, applying for Fair Fares, cash assistance, child support services, healthcare, SNAP benefits & more? Stop by Monday January, 27th between 10-3 PM to meet with a DSS representative and get one-on-one assistance. Receive help in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

For a full list of all programs and services offered by the Eastern Parkway Branch or any other branch, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/>.



38TH ANNUAL BROOKLYN TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Brooklyn Academy of Music honors the life and legacy of Dr. King at this vital Brooklyn tradition. Enjoy an inspiring speech by Carlotta Walls LaNier of the Little Rock Nine, a very special solo presentation by Ailey II, vibrant music with The Fire Ensemble led by Troy Anthony, and more.

On Monday, January 20, 2025 10:30am at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11217), there will be a special MLD celebration.

Tickets are free for this event and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8am on January 20 in the BAM

Howard Gilman Opera House lobby. Please note that providing an RSVP does not guarantee entry.



CELEBRATE MLK WITH BCM

Join the Brooklyn Children's Museum in their annual celebration of the life and legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through performances, protest marches, community art programs, and volunteer projects!

This year's festival features interactive shadow puppet performances created by Nehpriei Amenii, music and protest marching with Brooklyn-based musician Fyutch, Our Skin storytime with author Megan Madison, and community art-making projects. On Monday, January 20, Repair the World will also be organizing a volunteer service project to give back to the community.

Celebrate MLK at BCM takes place over two days, Sunday, January 19 and Monday, January 20. The Brooklyn Children's Museum is located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.



2025 HOPE COUNT

In just a few weeks, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will be conducting its 20th-annual survey of New Yorkers experiencing street homelessness – and they need your help.

On the evening of Tuesday, January 28, 2025, please consider participating in their Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey. Your help in conducting this survey is essential to strengthening the city's ability to deliver effective and efficient services to this group of particularly vulnerable New Yorkers. Most people volunteer in their own neighborhoods, and the HOPE survey is an important time to connect with constituents on a project to help those in need.

Here's how it works – from approximately 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM the night of the 28th, volunteers will fan out across the five boroughs to canvass

neighborhoods to observe the number of people experiencing street homelessness. Just one night of your time will help us collect information that is critical to efforts to move New Yorkers from the streets and into safe, stable environments. Help make a difference at www.nyc.gov/hope.

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### **ARTS AND CRAFTS WITH THE 77TH PRECINCT**

77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs would like to invite the community to an Arts and Crafts Event on Thursday, February 6, 2025! From 5PM to 7PM, get to know your local precinct's officers in a different capacity, and think of the precinct as a community space rather than a place to be avoided unless necessary. Due to limited supplies, registration is required and the event will be capped at 20 participants.

To register, please email Community Affairs at [Khalida.Wallen@NYPD.org](mailto:Khalida.Wallen@NYPD.org) or [Ruben.Marte@NYPD.org](mailto:Ruben.Marte@NYPD.org). The 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct is located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander will celebrate Black History Month at Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn from 6-8pm on Tuesday, February 25th.

The annual event will honor the contributions and achievements of Black New Yorkers and their role in shaping New York City's past and present. The Comptroller's Office will be joined by civic leaders across the city, community stakeholders, artists, and community members to reflect on timely issues impacting the Black community. Comptroller Lander will pay tribute to remarkable individuals for their significant contributions to New York City, followed by musical performances and networking.

To RSVP, visit <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/events/black-history-month-celebration/>.

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### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Starting this month, parents will be able to apply to run for a seat on any of the 32 Community Education Councils and 4 Citywide Education Councils for which they are eligible. Then, candidates will campaign from late February through April, and finally, voting will take place from late April through May 13.

CECs are composed of volunteer parents and community leaders who are responsible under state law for supporting their local district schools with the goal of raising student achievement. This support takes many forms:

- Collaborating with the superintendent in assessing the impact of the district's educational programs and student progress.
- Making recommendations for improvements to school buildings.
- Providing input in the hiring of superintendents and parent coordinators, and submitting a yearly evaluation of the superintendent.
- Approving zones for new schools and rezoning of existing schools when necessary.
- Organizing town halls with the chancellor and holding hearings on the budget and other matters where the DOE is required to collect public feedback.
- Providing input on DOE proposals for school closings and co-locations.
- Through their public meetings, serving as a forum for parents to learn about DOE policies and initiatives and to express their views and concerns.
- Supporting school communities by liaising with School Leadership Teams and helping connect parents with resources through presentations at their monthly meeting.

To learn more and understand how you can run or help with an election, visit <https://bit.ly/42jq1B9>. (link is case sensitive.)



### **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)



### **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](http://www.energyfitnyc.com).



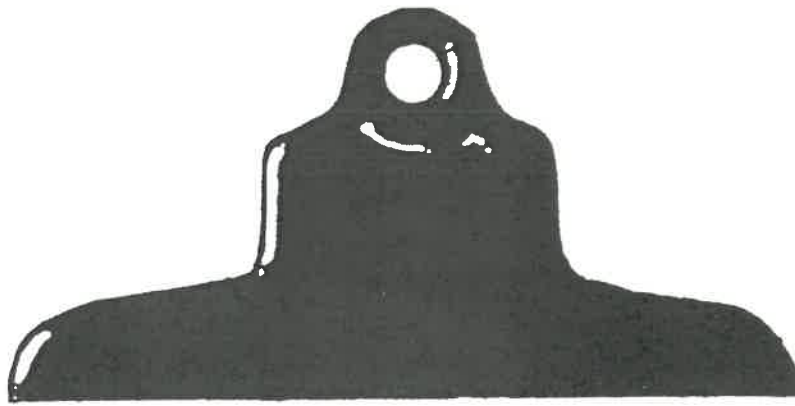
### **CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD**

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>.





***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:

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.

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

Councilmember Chi Ossé of the 36th 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, January 25th, 2025 from

11AM to 12:30 PM at the member's District office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11212.

Additionally, free housing assistance is offered in the office every Tuesday, and free legal immigration assistance every Monday.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM** at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Robin Smith on the recent loss of her aunt.

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

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