

ACROSS THE BOARD

JUNE 2024

VOLUME 45, NO. 6

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

District Manager's Report



Mr. Gib Veconi

was appointed to the Board in 2014 and is an active member of the CB8 Housing and Land Use and the SLA & Sidewalk Café Review Committees. He also serves as the Chair of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC).

YOUTH EXPO

Join Community Boards 3 and 8 for a co-sponsored Youth Fair on Friday, June 21, 2024 from Noon to 3 PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue). The fair will feature interactive workshops and activities and get information on jobs and internships, enrichment activities, service opportunities, training programs, college enrollment, academic supports, and much more.

For more information call CB3 at 718-622-6601 or CB8 at 718-467-5574.

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## **TIE DRIVE**

Mr. Veconi states, "I initially joined Community Board 8 in 2014 at the urging of then Councilmember Letitia James, who told me explicitly that the change I was seeking to accomplish would be easier to do as a member of the Board. At the time and for a long time prior, I had been seeking to create a neighborhood-wide rezoning proposal focused on underutilized manufacturing space in District 8. This project was known as the MCROWN proposal and is now called the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan or AAMUP."

Community Board 8, in collaboration with the Weeksville Heritage Center, is hosting a Tie Drive. Ties will be accepted until June 20<sup>th</sup> for distribution at the Youth Expo on the 21<sup>st</sup>. New and gently worn used ties will be accepted.

Mr. Veconi's work with PHNDC has been integral to improving the Prospect Heights community. PHNDC's efforts included historic designation of much of Prospect Heights, contextual zoning for the unlandmarked portion of the community, streetscape beautification of Vanderbilt Avenue, implementation of the Prospect Heights Slow Zone, and most recently, the success of Vanderbilt Avenue Open Streets.

Ties can be dropped off either to the CB8 district office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue or to Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue. For more information, call CB8 at 718-467-5574.

Mr. Veconi reminds everyone, "When united, the members of a community board can be a powerful force for change."

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**PROSPECT HEIGHTS PUBLIC REALM
IMPROVEMENTS INFO SESSIONS**

The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) & Department of Design and Construction (DDC) are collaborating on a \$1.8M Capital Project Scope Development Study (CPSD) study for Grand Army Plaza, Vanderbilt Ave. Open Street and Underhill Ave. Bike Blvd. In June and July, NYC DOT will be hosting a series of workshops to gather community feedback on proposed concepts for the three study areas. Please stop by and share your input!

Sessions will be offered:
Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket, Saturday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park)

Vanderbilt Open Street, Saturday, June 15, 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(Vanderbilt Ave. and St. Marks Ave.)

Brooklyn Public Library Plaza, Monday, June 17, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
(Outside the main entrance at 10 Grand Army Plaza)

Fort Greene Senior Citizens Council, Thursday, June 20, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(966 Fulton St.)

Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. visit: bit.ly/3VuOgbC
(Vanderbilt Ave. and St. Marks Ave.)

Medgar Evers College, Wednesday, July 10, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
(Outside the main entrance at Crown St. and Bedford Ave.)

To request accessibility accommodations, contact Emily Riquelme at 646.892.1363 or eriquelme@dot.nyc.gov.

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**Municipal Services Update**

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 06/03/2024 through 06/09/2024.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2024         | 2023 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 5            | 3    | 66.7  |
| Rape           | 13           | 10   | 30    |
| Robbery        | 76           | 89   | -14.6 |
| Felony Assault | 141          | 180  | -21.7 |
| Burglary       | 53           | 75   | -29.3 |
| Grand Larceny  | 160          | 189  | -15.3 |
| GL Auto        | 35           | 71   | -50.7 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-21.72**.

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The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the “scorecard” rating, was 93.2% for clean streets and 100% for clean sidewalks for the month of May.

We continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation’s residential enforcement routing times of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please clean in front of your properties and 18 inches into the gutter area of the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the District clean.

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**NYC DOT TRUCK ROUTE NETWORK  
REDESIGN PUBLIC FEEDBACK PORTAL**

In 2023, the New York City Council passed Local Law 171 requiring NYC DOT to redesign the city truck route network to enhance safety, increase visibility, reduce traffic congestion, and improve the overall freight roadway network.

NYC DOT just launched its Truck Route Network Redesign Public Feedback Portal. The Portal will allow the public and freight industry to learn about the city's truck route network and provide feedback. The public is able to comment and provide feedback through identifying issues and concerns of the current network via an interactive map. Feedback will help inform NYC DOT on how and where they can look to improve movement of trucks on city streets.

The deadline to provide public feedback is June 30, 2024, and feedback can be entered via the portal at <https://nycdotprojects.info/project/truck-route-network-redesign>.

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HELP CLOSE ILLICIT CANNABIS SHOPS

To date, there have not been any cannabis licenses issued in Community Board 8 for retail sale of THC containing cannabis products. The approved New York State budget that was passed this April created provisions to assist local municipalities to shut down illegal cannabis operations. An immediate action of this approved budget is that NYC Mayor Eric Adams is getting the immediate authority to use New York City's enforcement powers to inspect, issue violations, and seize cannabis and padlock stores under the Mayoral program, Operation Padlock to Protect, an effort among the NYPD, the city sheriff's office, and the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.

Consequently, it is more important than ever to report any shops or storefronts, mobile vans, and the like advertising THC containing cannabis or "weed," that are operating illegally and selling products not grown, produced, or manufactured in New York State. If there is a smoke shop near you, please email the name, address, and hours you witnessed activity of

the shop, and any other details to BrooklynCB8@gmail.com.

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### ***DEPT. FOR THE AGING SERVICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT***

The Department for the Aging (NYC Aging) has released a Service Needs Assessment survey to better understand the needs of older adults, so they can live the quality of life they deserve. The information we collect will help us improve our services and be better advocates for their needs. This is a great opportunity for New York City's older adults (aged 60 and older), as well as their caregivers, to have their voices heard. Please take a moment to complete the survey (or access the survey using the QR code) to ensure all of our city's diverse communities are represented. All responses to this survey are anonymous; however, NYC Aging will be randomly selecting 50 households for the chance to receive one Visa gift card worth \$50; those who would like to be considered for this drawing should provide contact information by September 30, 2024. And by completing the survey, you may be entered into our drawing and may win a \$50 gift card. For more information, call Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).

To complete the survey, visit [https://agingnyc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3WSqa83TntBDG86](https://agingnyc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WSqa83TntBDG86).

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NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY FUND

New York-Presbyterian is pleased to announce that applications for the 2024 Community Fund are now open. Following the success of their inaugural year, they are thrilled to continue supporting nonprofit community-based organizations (CBOs) in New York City. The Community Fund is a testament to their

commitment to addressing critical social determinants of health (SDOH), fostering innovative solutions, and strengthening relationships with community partners within the community.

This grant opportunity will concentrate exclusively on three critical SDOH that were identified in NYP's Community Health Needs Assessment. They are 1. Social Isolation; 2. Housing Insecurity; and 3. Unemployment/Economic Recovery. This focused approach allows the channeling of resources into areas where there is a pressing need for expanded intervention.

The Community Fund ("the Fund") will provide grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$150,000 per year, and applicants may apply for up to two years of funding for a maximum award of \$300,000. If an applicant chooses two years of funding, the total grant amount will be divided evenly over those two years. The largest single-year award will be \$150,000, and the smallest is \$75,000.

This opportunity is available to CBOs across New York City and Westchester County that are actively addressing one of the three critical SDOHs. Special consideration will be given to programs or projects that benefit residents from high-priority communities which includes Crown Heights and Bed Stuy.

An award under this program does not guarantee future funding or renewal. New York-Presbyterian is not obligated to distribute an equal number or amount of funding amongst the communities listed above.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.nyp.org/capacity-building/community-fund>. The deadline to apply is Sunday, June 23, 2024.

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## ***NOTICE OF CONCESSION OPPORTUNITIES***

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation ("Parks") is seeking to add to its solicitation mailing lists the names of individuals and businesses that are interested in operating concessions in City parks. Currently, over 400 different concessions operate throughout the five boroughs, including but not limited to cafés, restaurants, mobile food units, farmers' markets, sports facilities, amusement parks, arts and crafts markets, T-shirt and souvenir stands, marinas, carousels, driving ranges, golf courses, tennis facilities, ice rinks, newsstands, parking lots, stables, and Christmas tree stands.

If you are interested in learning more about Parks' concession opportunities and/or would like to be added to Parks' solicitation mailing lists so that you receive notice of when new opportunities become available, please contact Parks' Revenue Division by emailing [Revenue@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Revenue@parks.nyc.gov). Alternatively, you can just go to the link below and fill in the online form: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/concessions/solicitation-mailing-lists>. Please direct any questions or comments you may have to Andrew Coppola, Senior Project Manager, by phone at 212-360-3454 or via email at [andrew.coppola@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:andrew.coppola@parks.nyc.gov).

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FRANKLIN AVENUE SHUTTLE ALTERNATE SERVICE SUMMER 2024

The MTA will be performing a project which will replace the bridge over St. Marks Avenue along the Franklin Avenue Shuttle (FAS). This project will initially require some weekend signaling work, followed by a one-month closure of the FAS between the Park Place and Franklin Avenue stations. They are performing this project in the summer, when ridership on the FAS is much lower than the rest of the year.

The service Schedule will be altered as follows:

Phase 1: Weekends of June 15-16, June 22-23, June 29-30 and July 6-7: FAS service suspended and replaced by a fare-free shuttle bus, serving all four FAS stations

Phase 2: Monday, July 8 through Friday, August 9: FAS operates in both directions from Park Place S to Prospect Park B Q S at all times, including the Botanic Garden S station. A fare-free shuttle bus replaces FAS service in both directions from Park Place S to Franklin Avenue C S and will serve both stations at all times during this phase.

Phase 3: Weekends of August 10-11, 17-18 and August 31-September 2: FAS service suspended and replaced by a fare-free shuttle bus, serving all four FAS stations

All staging of equipment for this project will be on MTA property underneath the shuttle track.

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**DESTINATION NOSTRAND UNITY MARKET PLACE**

Join Crown Heights North Association, Brooklyn Children’s Museum, North Nostrand Avenue Merchant’s Association, Bridge Street Development Corporation for Destiantion Nostrand: Unity Market Place on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 3PM to 7 PM at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue). Discover the magic of Crown Heights!

Admission is free and early arrivers have a chance to win vouchers. For more information call 718-838-0153 or 646-580-8229.

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JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

Join Weeksville Heritage Center on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 11AM to 8PM for

an early Juneteenth Celebration. WHC is partnering with Jummy’s Picks by Black-Owned Brooklyn for their third annual Juneteenth Food Festival, a vibrant celebration of Black food, culture and community with 40+ food vendors and artisans. They will also have performances, art-making projects, wellness activities and more! This event is free. Weeksville Heritage Center is located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue).

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**Join Brooklyn Public Library** on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM at Grand Army Plaza Central Library for an evening of seasonal, 'uniquely American' food stories! According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, “Juneteenth is a time to gather as a family, reflect on the past and look to the future. Discover ways to celebrate this African American cultural tradition of music, food and freedom.”

By now everyone’s heard of ‘Juneteenth,’ the nation’s newest federal holiday that was signed into federal law on June 17, 2021. The holiday’s name is short for June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865 when the Union Army marched into the Confederate state of Texas (via the port city of Galveston) to announce the end of chattel slavery and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation that had declared their freedom 2 1/2 years prior in 1863 — resulting in joyous eruption among an estimated 250, 000 held in human bondage there and marking a beginning of hope for equality and freedom. The immediate focus for many was to reunite with family that had for centuries been forcibly separated. It was still another 2 1/2 years later (December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1865) that the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified to end slavery nationwide.

Food is a central part of any reunions and holiday celebrations. Learn from Culinary Historian Tonya Hopkins aka The Food Griot about the food (& drink!) associated with Juneteenth and the key role red-hued foods (&

drinks) play that distinguishes this early Summer holiday from other gatherings, barbecues, park parties or picnics.

For more information, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/celebration-foods-for-central-library-trustees-20240617-0630pm>.

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Friends of Brower Park invites you to attend their Juneteenth event in Brower Park on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 11AM to 3PM (Kingston Avenue and Park Place). The focus will be celebrating books of freedom in reference to the growing number of banned books.

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***A NOTE FROM ASSEMBLYMAN BRIAN CUNNINGHAM***

Assemblymember Brian Cunningham is working to improve the quality of life for Central Brooklynites through a series of recently introduced measures. One such measure is the “Street Sweeper” bill, A. 8902B, that would allow for photo enforcement of street cleaning alternative parking rules. By implementing instant ticketing for those not adhering to street cleaning rules, this bill will encourage motorists to move their vehicles to ensure cleaner streets and take the onus off of the NYPD Traffic agents. Senator Robert Jackson, of Northern Manhattan, introduced the companion bill in the Senate, S.8756.

For more information, call the Assemblyman’s office at 718-771-3105.

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NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SENATOR ZELNOR MYRIE

Senator Zellnor Myrie would like to share the following information with the community:

- The office will be closed for our summer break from June 24th - July 5th. All inquiries will be responded to upon their return on July 8th.
- The office is excited to be partnering with the Brooklyn Nets again for their annual Youth Basketball Clinic and Resource Fair. The event will take place on July 27th from 12pm - 4pm at Wingate Park. Coaches from the Nets will engage participants in basketball training, drills, and matches while youth-focused partner organizations table around the court. Please reach out to their office at 718-284-4700 if your child would like to participate or if your organization would like to table.
- Save the date for our annual Back-to-School Block Party on August 24th. They will be distributing backpacks and school supplies for children with games and food for all to enjoy. More details to come.

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

Councilmember Chi Ossé of the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District, is pleased to share the following information with the community:

- Celebrate Juneteenth with the Councilmember on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Brower Park from 1PM to late in the evening, culminating with a movie screening after sunset. The schedule includes massage therapy, health and wellness, Zumba, drum lessons, music, dance performances, and so much more!
- Housing Info with CUFFH Affordable Housing Services is held every Tuesday from Noon to 6 p.m.

- Migrant Resource Day is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Migrants can apply for various services including WIC, transportation, housing, health insurance, immigration attorneys, and can even apply for a free cell phone or tablet.
- Free Legal Immigration Advice will be offered June 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins will be accepted.
- Free Legal Advice is offered June 27 from 10 AM to 5 PM.
- Free prostate cancer screening July 13<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2PM at Restoration Plaza.

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 member is working on senior security as the city has cut funding to senior centers that would eliminate security staff at the front desk. She states that this is unacceptable, and we must ensure the protection and wellbeing of our seniors as they enjoy their recreational activities.
- The member hosts a food pantry on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, free housing assistance is offered in the office. Every Tuesday, the office offers free legal assistance. Every Thursday,

there are free Immigration Attorneys hosted in the office.

- Silent Disco Fun on Saturday, June 15th from 6-9PM at Betsy Head Park on Bristol Street at Blake Avenue. Grab a set of wireless headphones and dance to your own beat! This fun party for all ages is free to the public, but a form of identification is required to exchange for headphones (if you do not have your own).
- The member is partnering with the 71st Precinct Community Council, 71st Precinct Community Affairs and Youth Officers on a Juneteenth: Celebrate Freedom program on Wednesday, June 19th from Noon to 4 PM at 421 Empire Blvd. Enjoy music and food, fun entertainment, mobile health vans, and much more.

To register or more information, call their office at 718-953-3097.

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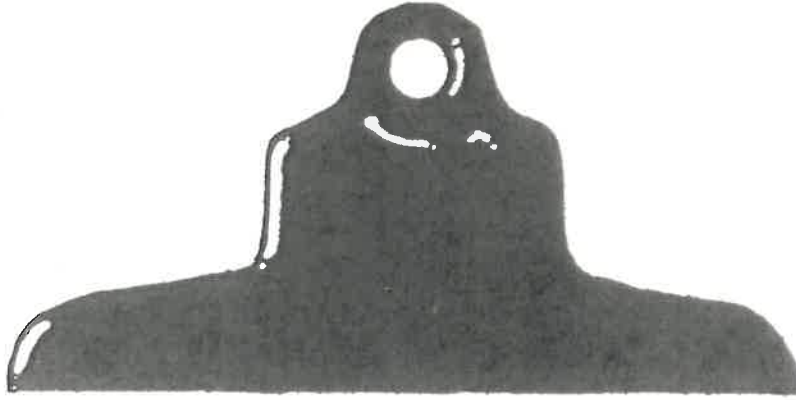
***HOT SOUNDS OF SUMMER WITH MAKE  
MUSIC BROOKLYN***

Join the North Flatbush Avenue BID on Friday, June 21, 2024 from 4PM to 8PM at the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Triangle (Flatbush Avenue and St. John's Place) for a live music showcase with Salvo Musica, J.A.W., and Hot Club of Flatbush.

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***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE CROWN
HEIGHTS NORTH ASSOCIATION***

The Crown Heights North Association general membership meeting will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 6:45 PM at Crown Heights Apartments Community Room, 1055 St. John's Place (Between Brooklyn & Kingston Aves.) Invited speakers include Selma Jackson,



President of Age Friendly Central Brooklyn Inc. and Carmen L. Martinez from Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights, Inc.

The 4th Annual Summer Soiree will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2024 from 2PM to 7PM at the Brooklyn Children's Museum Rooftop (145 Brooklyn Avenue, corner of St. Marks Avenue). Tickets are available at Elitegraphix located at 822A Nostrand Avenue (between Lincoln Pace and Eastern Pkwy). No tickets will be sold at the door and early bird tickets are available through June 30th.

For more information, call 646-580-8229.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members, Mr. William Meehan, and Ms. Mimi Mitchell, who will celebrate birthdays in the month of June.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 District Manager, Ms. Michelle George, and CB8 members, Mr. Jamell Henderson, Mr. Brian Saunders, Ms. Robin Smith, Ms. Ethel Tyus, Mr. Robert Witherwax, and Ms. Nicole Tetreault, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of July.

We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members Ms. Sharon Alexis-Pierre, Mr. Robert Callahan, Ms. Fior Ortiz-Joyner, Dr. Cadessa Ramharrack, and Mr. Ezra Roth, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of August.

**The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be held** on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Orlando Ross, Constituent Liaison with Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, on the recent loss of his sister.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Andrea Ferris on the recent loss of her Uncle.

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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**

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**Phone: 718-467-5574**  
**Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)**  
**Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)**

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