

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**MAY 2024**

**VOLUME 45, NO. 5**

## **COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!**



**Ms. Deborah Young**

was appointed to the Board in 2011 and she is our current sitting Second Vice Chair. Ms. Young is also the President of the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA).

Ms. Young states, "My reason for being civically engaged is because our communities matter. Aside from wanting to know what is going on around me for myself, I am also committed to representing and being another 'ear' and 'voice' for community residents who are unable to actively participate."

Ms. Young is a lifelong city servant of New York State and City, and brought to the Crown Heights North Association her expertise gained from various directorial capacities at government-based facilities in the state. Through her advocacy work, CHNA secured landmark designation for over 1700 homes and the placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Young is a dedicated member of the Environment/Sanitation/Transportation Committee, the SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee, and the Land Use committee of Community Board 8. She vows to remain active and bringing a voice to the community's silenced residents.

## **District Manager's Report**

### **Welcome new Community Board 8 members!**

We would like to welcome the following new members to Community Board 8:

- Mr. Peter Anekwe
- Mr. Ammar Elahi
- Mr. Mohammed Hassan
- Mr. Jamell Henderson
- Mr. Tafari John-King
- Mr. Malik Jabati
- Mr. William Meehan
- Ms. Courtney Morgan
- Mr. Ezra Roth
- Ms. Robin Smith
- Ms. Katie Taylor
- Ms. Dana Thompson
- Mr. Esmond Turnbull

May your membership on the board be fruitful and rewarding.

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## **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**

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.

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.

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### **Municipal Services Update**

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 04/29/2024 through 05/05/2024.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2024         | 2023 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 5            | 2    | 150   |
| Rape           | 9            | 9    | 0     |
| Robbery        | 59           | 64   | -7.8  |
| Felony Assault | 103          | 140  | -26.4 |
| Burglary       | 46           | 52   | -11.5 |
| Grand Larceny  | 125          | 144  | -13.2 |
| GL Auto        | 27           | 51   | -47.1 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-19.05**.

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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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### **EARTHQUAKES**

NYC Office of Emergency Management issued the following statement in the wake of recent earthquakes in the city:

“Although New York City does not sit on a major fault system like the San Andreas fault in California, earthquakes are possible here. Learn more about the earthquakes NYC has experienced and get prepared for future quakes by checking out NYC’s Hazard Mitigation Plan at <https://nychazardmitigation.com/documentation/nyc-hazard-mitigation-plan/>.

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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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## ***WELCOME HOME: LIFE AFTER INCARCERATION***

Life after incarceration can be hard, but you are not alone. Brooklyn Public Library Outreach Services Navigators have firsthand experience with reentry and help guide recent releasees with:

- One-on-one help navigating barriers and identifying needs and goals
- Guidance on housing, health, reconnecting with family and more
- Monthly dinners where you can join a community of support and share your experiences
- Connections to library services, local groups, and more.

Call or text 929-561-9789 for more information and to set up a one-on-one meeting with a Navigator. They are available to chat over the phone and also have regular hours at the following BPL branches: Bushwick Library, Canarsie Library, Crown Heights Library, Marcy Library, New Lots Library, and Saratoga Library.

Additionally, the 2024 Job Fair for Justice-Involved Persons will be held in partnership with District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and NYS DOCCS and Brooklyn Workforce 1 on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The job fair will be held at 345 Adams Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Downtown Brooklyn. Call 718-250-3282 for more information.

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## ***FREE HOME ENERGY REPAIR UPGRADES***

EnergyFit is a nonprofit initiative of the Pratt Center for Community Development, IMPACCT Brooklyn, and Cypress Hills Local Development Corp. The organizations are committed to helping Brooklynites keep their homes affordable and make their communities more sustainable. They are offering free energy upgrades to eligible two and three family homes in Brooklyn valued between \$20,000 and \$25,000. These upgrades include:

- Mold or asbestos remediation
- New high-efficiency electric stoves and hot water heaters
- Electrical system updates
- Building wide air sealing and insulation

To learn more, visit [www.EnergyFitNYC.com](http://www.EnergyFitNYC.com) or call Pratt Center at 718-636-3496.

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### ***BROOKLYN URBAN GARDENER***

The Brooklyn Urban Gardener (BUG) certificate program is an annual multiple-session course that covers the basics in urban gardening and community greening. It connects the educational resources of Brooklyn Botanic Garden to the greening efforts of Brooklyn's communities.

BUG students can expect an experiential, train-the-trainer program. Using a hands-on, participatory education model, the course includes instruction in sustainable horticultural practices suited to the urban environment, street tree stewardship, community engagement practices, effective teaching methods, and an overview of the greening resources available in Brooklyn. The training is free. Classes begin in mid-September and run into November.

If you have any questions, email [bug@bbg.org](mailto:bug@bbg.org) or call 718-623-7250. To apply, visit <https://www.bbg.org/community/brooklyn-urban-gardener-certificate-application>.

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### ***BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS BROOKLYN HALF MARATHON***

The New York Road Runners are hosting the RBC Brooklyn Half on **Saturday, May 18, 2024** starting at 7:00 a.m. The race begins next to the Brooklyn Museum and ends on the world-famous Coney Island Board walk. There will be several street closures and several areas with restricted access. For the full route and list of street closures, visit <https://www.nyrr.org/races/rbcbrooklynhalf>.

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### ***SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE FAIR***

The NYC Mayor's Community Affairs Unit is pleased to announce its NYC Small Business Resource Fair. A fair will be held in each of the five boroughs between April and June 2024. The purpose of this Resource Fair is to encourage small businesses to become vendors for the City. In addition, information will be provided for the Non-Profit Sector. On hand to initiate the facilitation of this process will be representatives from the following:

- NYC Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE)
- NYC Small Business Services
- NYC Nonprofits
- NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services

Regardless of borough and location, the fair will be held from 9AM to 1PM and is a great opportunity for networking. Space is limited, so be sure to register for an event as soon as possible via this link: <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/sbs-resource-fair-form.page>.

Dates and locations are as follows:

May 16<sup>th</sup>: NYC Police Training Auditorium, 235 E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street (Manhattan)

June 4<sup>th</sup>: Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall, 2900 Bedford Avenue (Brooklyn)

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### ***FREE MAMMOGRAM SCREENING***

The American Italian Cancer Foundation along with Bedford Central Presbyterian Church are hosting free Mammogram Screening on Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 2PM in front of 1200 Dean Street (corner of Nostrand Avenue).

Mammograms are open to women ages 40 and older currently living in New York City that



have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months. You do not have to have insurance or even be a citizen to take advantage. Schedule your no-cost mammogram today at 646-948-7219 or 877-628-9090.

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### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO 2024**

The Brooklyn Green Magnet School for Eco-Activism is sponsoring a Health and Wellness Expo on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 from 10AM to 2PM at Woods Playground located behind 130 Rochester Avenue (the park is in the middle of the block on Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue between Utica and Rochester Avenue). The goal of the event is to provide the community with additional resources and knowledge for living a healthier lifestyle.

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### **CYBER FOOD PANTRY**

The Campaign Against Hunger (TCAH) recently introduced a “Cyber Food Pantry” that allows clients to select their preferred foods online, ensuring that they receive the nourishment they need, delivered right to their doorstep. Eligible recipients for TCAH innovative new system must live within 10 miles of the Brooklyn Food Distribution Center at 744 Berriman Street. To find out if you are eligible and to sign up, visit <https://www.tcahnyc.org/pantry-application/>.

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### **INFORMATION FOR VETERANS**

The goal of New York State Department of Veterans’ Services is to ensure Veterans have access to benefits and information and to help organizations statewide enhance their Veterans and/or Health and Wellness Ministries. Information New York State

Department of Veterans’ Services is offering includes:

- Restoration of Honors
- Benefits for incarcerated Veterans and their families
- Assisting Veterans with Re-entry
- Access to Food Coupons during the Spring and Summer months
- Access to Veteran Resources and grants as they become available

On a larger scale, the goal is to strengthen the relationship between the Faith-based Community, Community Based Organizations and Community residents, in service to building bridges, meeting needs, and fostering healing within Beloved Community, with specific focus on Veterans, those who have served and their family members.

For more information, visit <https://veterans.ny.gov/>.

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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 ASSEMBLYMAN  
ROBERT CARROLL**

Senator Carroll is pleased to announce his bill, (A.275), which would require the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to establish a rebate program for e-bikes and scooters modeled on New York's Drive Clean program for cars, recently was voted out of the Assembly Committee on Energy. The bill calls for a rebate to purchasers of e-bikes and e-scooters of 50% up to a maximum of \$1,100. This legislation would make a sustainable form of transportation affordable to a wide range of New Yorkers and help ensure that e-bikes and scooters purchased for work or leisure meet appropriate safety standards. While the bill would not cover previously made purchases, it would help NYC residents help meet the city's climate change needs.

Additionally, Assemblyman Carroll is hosting "Full Service Friday" on Friday, May 31, 2024 in front of his district office located at 416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Park Slope. Constituents will be able to utilize the Dept. of Sanitation's paper shredding truck, tend to all metrocard related needs at the MTA Metrocard Van, and obtain a free rain barrel from the Dept. of Environmental Protection. Rain barrels must be reserved in advance by calling the Assemblyman's office at 718-771-7221. Services will be rendered from 9 AM to 3PM.

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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:

- 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 on May 16 and 29; and June 12 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins will be accepted.
- Free Legal Advice is offered May 16 and 30 and June 13 and 27 from 10 AM to 5 PM.
- Bike Day will be held on May 18, 2024 starting at 2 PM. Join the Councilmember for a bike around the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District. Meet at 2 p.m. at Restoration Plaza (with a bike) for the ride, then enjoy music, food, karaoke, and a movie screening at 8 PM. All will be held 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 Dept. of Social Services (DSS) Outreach Team will be joining with her office on a Fair Fares Enrollment Event on

Monday, May 13, 2024 from 10 AM to 3PM at her office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue.

- Unity in the Community Event will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024 from Noon to 3PM at Betsy Head Park located on Dumont Avenue between Strauss Street and Thomas Boyland Street. There will be music, games, giveaways, etc. This event is in partnership with Elite Learners and Brownsville Multipurpose Servies.
- The next Community Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 18, 2024 at PS 40 located at 265 Ralph Avenue (corner of Marion Street) from 11AM to 12:30PM. The discussion will be on the City of Yes: Housing Opportunity proposal.
- The member hosts a food pantry on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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### ***LEGAL HAND OPEN HOUSE***

Legal Hand Crown Heights Storefront Center is a Community Resource Center where trained, non-attorney community Volunteers provide FREE, Legal Assistance, Information, Resources and Referrals, in arrears like, family, housing, immigration, divorce, domestic violence and benefits. They will be hosting their Open House on June 12th, 2024 from 1pm - 4 pm at their office located at 250 Kingston Avenue. Please RSVP to Yvette Rouget at [yrouget@nycourts.gov](mailto:yrouget@nycourts.gov).

### ***SENIOR PROM 2024***

You heard about Senior Prom last year; don't just hear about it this year...be a part of it! Put your dancing shoes on, bring a dancing buddy, and enjoy the oldies but goodies on Friday, June 28, 2024 from 4 to 8 PM at St. Louis Older Adult Center located at 230 Kingston Avenue (between Sterling and St. John's Places).

This is a fundraising event. Details can be obtained when you RSVP to Hellen Denman OR Viva Baker OR Frances Langley OR Essie Spivey at 718-771-7945.

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### ***HAITIAN FLAG DAY CELEBRATION***

Join several of Brooklyn's elected official for Haitian Flag Day, a celebration of 220 years of Haitian Independence. Flag Day will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue).

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### ***GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN***

The Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest is free and open to all residential blocks, commercial blocks, and community gardens in Brooklyn.

Participants can attend a free workshop, How to Green Your Block, at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and host a free interactive, walk-and-talk block visit, led by BBG staff, to learn about their block's greening opportunities. Contest winners are revealed in August, and dozens of prizes are awarded for greening efforts.

Garden together to make your block more beautiful, friendly, and green! To apply to enter, or to get more information, visit <https://www.bbg.org/community/greenestblock>.



We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members, Ms. Dian Duke, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Ms. Deborah Young, Mr. Edward Delman, Ms. Anika Roach, and Mr. Malik Jabati, who will celebrate birthdays in the month of May.

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**The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be held** on Tuesday, May 28 , 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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**The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting** will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 for more information.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue).

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We send our heartfelt condolences to CB8 College Aide, Ms. Zoie Moses, 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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