

ACROSS THE BOARD

NOVEMBER 2024

VOLUME 45, NO. 9

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon

was appointed to the Board in 2014 and is in her second term as Chairperson. She also serves as the current Chair of the SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee.

Grace and Peace Everyone! I joined Community Board 8 to see how I could get involved in my community and to be of service. I believe in community service in the tithing of your time, talents and treasures. I look forward to the opportunities to engage with one another in the uplifting of our community, with the care and concern for each another.

As Chairperson, I believe that integrity, transparency, fairness, inclusivity and compassion are core attributes necessary to be of service in any community. As Dr. Edwin Louis Cole has thought, "You are only qualified to lead to the degree you are willing to serve." It is important to me that we be connected to each other and in the work that we're doing in the community. With adversity comes opportunities. Opportunities to share, learn and enhance our strengths, in service to the community, in which we live in and love.

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



District Manager's Report

CB8 CELEBRATES VETERANS



On Wednesday, November 13, 2024, the CB8 Veterans Committee honored eight of the district's veterans at its first Veterans Appreciation Day.

Those honored were Al Bass (US Army), Master Sergeant Ashton Benn (US Marine Corps), James Bromell (US Navy), Charles Palms (US Navy), Alice Simpson (US Army), Robin Smith (US Air Force), Meredith Staton (US Army), and Rev. Dr. Annie Suggs (US Army).

Six of the eight honorees were able to attend the ceremony and were treated to an intimate session with committee members, and were even surprised by a visit from Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman.

We thank Assemblywoman Zinerman not only for her appearance, but also for providing each of the honorees with a citation. Additional electeds that provided citations were Councilmembers Darlene Mealy and Crystal Hudson and Assemblyman Brian Cunningham.



DROUGHT AND FIRE SAFETY

New York City is in the midst of a historically dry stretch due to a significant lack of rainfall. As such, the threat of fast spreading brush fires fueled by dry vegetation and windy conditions pose a very real threat to our city. The FDNY reported it had responded to a record 229 brush fires citywide in the last two weeks, one of which damaged over two acres of woodlands in Prospect Park.

There are some simple common-sense ways to help prevent brush fires. First and foremost, **start conserving water immediately!** Visit www.nyc.gov/savewater for tips you can employ to reduce your water usage. Secondly, **do not use open flames in and around parks.** As of November 9th, all barbequing has been outlawed in city parks to help prevent fires. Thirdly, **do not smoke cigarettes or other incendiary products in and around parks, and especially, do not discard burning butts by throwing them out of your car window or onto the street while walking.**

Please do your part to conserve water and help prevent brush fires.

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## ***Municipal Services Update***

**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 11/04/2024 through 11/10/2024.**

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2024         | 2023 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 12           | 7    | 71.4  |
| Rape           | 19           | 17   | 11.8  |
| Robbery        | 168          | 196  | -14.3 |
| Felony Assault | 338          | 371  | -8.9  |
| Burglary       | 125          | 159  | -21.4 |
| Grand Larceny  | 320          | 354  | -9.6  |
| GL Auto        | 95           | 148  | -35.8 |

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

## ***NEW CONTAINERIZED GARBAGE MANDATES IN EFFECT***

As of November 12, 2024, all properties with 1-9 residential units are required to use bins, 55 gallons or less, with secure lids for trash set out.

If you already use a bin with a secure lid that is 55 gallons or less for setting out your trash, you may continue to use it until June 2026. After that, you will need to switch to the Official NYC Bin.

Fines will not start being issued until January 2, 2025, but all homeowners of buildings with 1 to 9 units are encouraged to start abiding by the new changes immediately.

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ANNUAL PARAPET OBSERVATIONS

As of January of this year, every building owner must have an observation of the parapet on their building(s) performed in accordance with the requirements of Section 28-301.1.1 of the New York City Administrative Code. This requirement applies to all buildings with parapets fronting the public right-of-way, regardless of height. A parapet is defined as the part of any wall entirely above the roof line, the elevation of an exterior wall is part of the public right-of-way if a member of the public who is not associated with the property in question can freely walk up to the façade of the building, even if that exterior wall is on private property. Buildings with a continuous barrier within a perpendicular distance from the exterior wall that is equal to or less than half the height of the exterior wall must be inspected.

There are a few exceptions to the Parapet Observation requirement. These exceptions are:

- Detached 1- or 2- family homes
- Buildings with a fence or other barrier preventing access to the exterior wall.

For all other properties, the observation must include close-up inspections of the entire parapet which could be conducted from a fire escape or roof. See 1 RCNY §103-15 for more information on observation and report requirements.

To comply with reporting requirements, the person performing the observation or the owner in consultation with the person performing the observation is required to prepare a report of the observation. Owners must maintain the observation reports for at least 6 years and make the reports available to DOB upon request. Review 1 RCNY §103-15 for more information about the observation and report requirements.

As per Maintenance of Buildings, (Chapter 3 §28 - 301.1.1 Parapets), a building's parapet shall be maintained in a safe condition. A building owner must have an annual parapet observation performed as described in the rules of the department. This observation must be performed on all buildings, regardless of height.

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**UNIFORM COLOR GUIDE FOR STREET MARKINGS**

What are the colors for utility marking? The color of street markings means something different for each color. Depending on the color maintenance workers are using, you know exactly what type of work will be performed. The following chart will help you better understand the type of work and identify which utility company is performing it:

|        |                                                            |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| White  | Proposed Excavation                                        |
| Pink   | Temporary Survey Markings                                  |
| Red    | Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, and Lighting Cables |
| Yellow | Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials           |
| Orange | Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables, or Conduit   |
| Blue   | Potable Water                                              |
| Purple | Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines              |
| Green  | Sewers and Drain Lines                                     |

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AGING AND MENTAL CLARITY

Aging is a natural part of life, but that doesn't mean we can't take steps to ensure healthy aging. Keeping the mind sharp is a key aspect of healthy aging, as cognitive decline is a common concern as we age. Here are some ways to keep your mind sharp...

Stay Active: Physical activity is good for the body and the mind. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, which can help to improve memory and cognitive function. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise most days of the week.

Eat a Healthy Diet: Eating a healthy diet can also help to keep the mind sharp. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats can provide the nutrients needed for optimal brain function. Avoid processed foods, excess sugar, and saturated fats.

Stay Socially Active: Social interaction is important for mental health and can help to keep the mind sharp. Join a club or group, volunteer, or spend time with friends and family.

Challenge the Brain and Stay Curious: Keeping the brain active and engaged is crucial for healthy aging. Engage in activities that challenge the brain, such as reading, puzzles, and learning new skills, explore new ideas, travel, learn a new language, etc.

Manage Stress: Chronic stress can have harmful effects on the brain and cognitive function. Manage stress through things like meditation, yoga, and deep breathing exercises.

Healthy aging involves taking care of both the body and the mind. Engaging in activities that challenge the brain, eating a healthy diet, staying socially active, getting enough sleep, managing stress, limiting alcohol, quitting smoking, and staying curious are all ways to keep the mind sharp as you age. Making these habits a part of your lifestyle can help to support healthy aging and cognitive function.

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**FORT GREEN CULTURE TOUR**

On Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 11AM to 12:30PM, you are invited to attend a Black History and Culture Tour of Fort Green. Meet at the corner of Washington Park and Dekalb Avenue (Fort Greene Park entrance). This event is developed in partnership with MoCADA, Weeksville Heritage Center, and many others.

## ***WINTER READY: OLDER ADULTS***

Are you ready for the challenges that winter can bring? NYC Office of Emergency Management is presenting Winter Ready: A Preparedness Webinar for Older Adults on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 1PM for participants to learn essential emergency preparedness tips to stay safe this season, including building a support network, connecting with local services, and fire safety.

Register now at [www.on.nyc.gov/Winter24](http://www.on.nyc.gov/Winter24).

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PRE THANKSGIVING HOT LUNCH AND RESOURCE FAIR

Join IDCC Crown Heights on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 from 11AM to 1PM for a Pre Thanksgiving hot lunch and resource fair with free clothing and book giveaways at 921 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn. Confirmed agencies are the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, Health First, Phoenix House, Wycoff Hospital, SUNY Downstate Hospital, Bed Stuy Family Health Center, Brooklyn Public Library Adult Lit Zone, and Diaspora Community Services among many more. In case of rain, the event will be held on Wednesday, November 27th.

For more information, contact Arna Lipkind at alipkind@interborough.org.

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## ***CONFRONTING CANCER WITH CLARITY AND COURAGE***

On Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 10 AM to 2PM, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church located at 11 Sumpter Street, Brooklyn, will host "Confronting Cancer with Clarity and Courage." The event highlights include professionals on site to screen for colorectal and prostate cancers; learn the benefits of juicing with a live demo by Chef Stephanie; general health screenings; tips and tools from mental health care professionals to help you on a healing journey.

To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3YL9SBf>. (Please note: this link is case sensitive.)

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CHASE BANK MERCHANTS MIXER

Join the merchants of Utica Avenue for a community discussion on forming a merchants association and organizing a neighborhood clean-up for December. The meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20th at 5:45 PM at the Chase Bank, Utica Avenue branch at 257 Utica Avenue at Lincoln Place. For more information, contact Claudia Kohn at ckohn@bsdcorp.org.

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## ***UNDERSTANDING LAND TRANSACTIONS BY FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS***

On Monday, November 18, 2024 from 6-8:30PM, join NYS Attorney General Letitia James in conjunction with Brooklyn Boro President Antonio Reynoso, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Senator Zellnor Myrie, Assemblywoman Phara Souffrant-Forrest, and Councilmember Crystal Hudson to learn about the process of selling, ground leasing, or mortgaging your church property. The event will be held at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights located at 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. RSVP at <https://ag.ny.gov/faith-based-land-transactions>.

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WORLD AIDS DAY

On Friday December 6, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30PM at Downstate Health Science University located at 395 Lenox Rd Brooklyn NY 11203, join the Brooklyn Association of Teen Educators (BATES) is back with another exciting in-person event to honor World AIDS Day.

Peer Power Up Time is from 4:30pm-5:30pm (For peer educators, peer leaders, peer advocates and similar)

Teen Town Hall Time is from 5:30pm-7:30pm (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Register now at <https://BATESWAD2024.eventbrite.com/>.

IMPERIAL BIKERS CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

Imperial Bikers Motorcycle Club will be hosting a free Christmas party for kids on December 8, 2024 from 2-6 pm. Free toys, snacks and photos with Santa. Additionally, their Community Meal will be on December 15, 2024 beginning at 12 noon until all the food is gone. Both events will be held at Imperial Biker's MC Clubhouse- 652 Franklin Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11238 (corner of Franklin Ave.)



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 by December 16, 2024.



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM COUNCILMEMBER CRYSTAL HUDSON

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

- Free legal clinic every Thursday from 2 to 6PM by appointment only.
- Every Wednesday, the member hosts a free housing clinic with CHUFF from 11AM to 5PM. Walk-ins welcome.
- Monthly housing workshop in partnership with IMPACCT Brooklyn and Take Root Justice on the recently passed Good Cause Eviction Bill. The next one will be held on

October 15th at 6PM via Zoom. Call the office for information.

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 36th 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 5 p.m.
- Free Legal Advice will be offered on November 14th, and December 12th from 10AM to 4PM by appointment only.
- Free Immigration Legal Advice is offered November 27th, and December 11th from 10 AM to 4 PM by appointment only. Homeownership and Financial Counseling in partnership with Brooklyn Neighborhood Services will be held from 10AM to 3PM in the office.
- Family Law Clinics will be held on November 15, 2024 from 10AM to 4PM with individual and confidential legal consultations on issues like child/spousal support, custody and visitation, orders of protection, assistance for victims of financial abuse, consumer debt and identity theft, assistance completing crime victims compensation applications, and much more.
- Special Movie Screening and Panel, "Ol' Dirty Bastard: A Tale of Two Dirtys" on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 7 PM at Crown Hill Theater located at 746-750 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn.
- Dr. Albert Vann Way Street Co-Naming will be celebrated on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 11 AM at the corner of MacDonough Street and Stuyvesant Avenue in Bed Stuy.
- Thanksgiving giveaway turkey and food distribution on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 11 AM until supplies run out at



West Plaza, Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn.

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, November 23, 2024 at Eagle Academy located at 1137 Herkimer St from 11AM to 12:30PM.
- Food pantry on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- 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 77th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7 PM at the Nigerian American Muslim Integrated Community Center, located at 801 Dean Street. (Note: this is a different day in honor of the Veterans Day holiday on the second Monday.)

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We offer our heartfelt condolences to CB8 member Kwasi Mensah for the loss of his wife, Earline

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Ms. Julia Neale, Mr. Lula Staton, and Mr. Mark Thurton who will all celebrate a birthday in the month of November.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue, 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
Zoie Moses, College Aide

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

Phone: 718-467-5574
Website: www.brooklyncb8.org
Email: brooklyncb8@gmail.com

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