

# ACROSS THE BOARD

DECEMBER 2022

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## *District Manager's Report*

### ***CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION***

Community Boards are the first level of local government and consist of community volunteers appointed by Borough Presidents. The charge is to weigh in on matters that effect their community regarding land use, transportation issues, small businesses, youth and education, and environmental issues just to name a few.

The Civic Engagement Commission works with all 59 Boards across the city to provide assistance and training to community board members, such as workshops on uniform meeting procedures, language access best practices, conflict resolution, and community outreach. Working with the Board Chairs, District Managers, and Board members they assess the needs of the Boards across each borough and then work with City Agencies and Non-Profit providers to bring custom workshops for all the members. All workshops are now available online at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/civicengagement/our-programs/community-boards.page>.

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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, 2023, 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.brooklyn-usa.org/departments/community-boards/>.

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### ***Municipal Services Update***

**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 11/28/2022 through 12/04/2022.**

	Year-to-Date		
	2022	2021	%Chg
Murder	11	11	0
Rape	21	26	-19.2
Robbery	199	134	48.5
Felony Assault	340	288	18.1
Burglary	170	135	25.9
Grand Larceny	406	260	56.2
GL Auto	126	95	32.6

The overall change year-to-date is **34.14**.

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The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, known as the "scorecard" rating, was **99% for clean streets and 100% for sidewalks** for the month of November. Way to go District 8!

We urge everyone to adhere to the Department 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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### **HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. Call 1-800-342-3009 to see if you are eligible for heating assistance and apply.

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### **OPEN STREETS APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED**

The 2023 Open Streets application is now live! Apply today! With a streamlined process for returning partners and resources available for those looking to manage Open Streets, the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) is excited to create new partnerships and work with communities across NYC to grow the program next year.

NYC DOT works with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and groups of businesses to execute Open Streets citywide. In coordination with community partners, NYC DOT can also help to develop operational plans to manage the street for multiple uses, including outdoor dining, programming, and outdoor learning/recreation for schools. NYC DOT works with partners and local stakeholders to

ensure loading, deliveries, and emergency access is coordinated as part of the Open Streets’ operations.

Visit [www.nyc.gov/openstreets#apply](http://www.nyc.gov/openstreets#apply) to access an application and to learn more about the program.

If your Open Street will launch on or before June 30, 2023, you must apply by January 31, 2023.

If your Open Street will launch on or after July 1, 2023, you must apply by April 14, 2023. This deadline is also for any school applying for the 2023-2024 academic year.

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### **HOLIDAY BLUES**

Social gatherings play a major role in most winter festivities, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another holiday. But it’s entirely possible to feel isolated in the midst of all the joy. Here’s what Web MD wants you to know about holiday loneliness.

Loneliness is a personal concept that happens when you feel socially isolated, and it can have a powerful impact on your mental health. The sad reality is that even in the midst of interacting at gatherings, we can feel lonely and isolated, and this can cause distress. When you feel socially isolated, here’s what could be going on in your brain and your body:

Loneliness triggers your body to produce extra cortisol. Known as the stress hormone, cortisol is normally released only in response to a temporary threat, so when the body is exposed to cortisol for a long period of time, it can cause anxiety and depression. You can also have headaches, sleep disturbances, digestive problems, experience heart health issues, and

you may even gain weight. Overall, it may lead to early death.

Social isolation changes your brain's chemistry. This makes tasks that require thinking more difficult, and experts believe that this process may lead to reduced cognitive ability and eventually to dementia, especially in older adults.

For many people, the holidays are a time to look forward to, but for some, the holidays can be a difficult and emotionally exhausting time. The reasons for this are varied and can include unrealistic expectations about the holiday season and even grief or depression from not being able to celebrate with deceased loved ones.

Whether you feel it coming or are caught off guard by holiday loneliness, there are strategies that may help to reduce these feelings.

Tap into technology. If you can't be with loved ones in real life, reach for technology to feel connected. Phone calls, texting, video chats, Zoom gatherings, and photo sharing can include you in each other's celebrations even when you can't be together.

Reach out to others who may be lonely. Almost everyone has friends and acquaintances who will be alone for the holiday season. Contact friends and celebrate with your chosen family. Another classic way of banishing the blues is to volunteer your time for a worthy cause.

Stick to healthy habits. Try to maintain a good diet. Watch your alcohol intake. Don't let cold weather keep you from being active.

If you find yourself unable to shake the blues, seek professional help immediately, the same as you would if you had a really bad cold. If you have the urge to self-harm, call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 988.

### ***SMELL GAS? ACT FAST!***

National Grid and Con Edison reminds everyone of gas safety this holiday season. Natural gas smells like rotten eggs, and if in the air, a spark could cause an explosion. If you smell gas, act fast! Get everyone out immediately if you suspect a gas leak. Once you reach safety, call 911, Con Edison (1-800-75-CONED) or National Grid (1-718-643-4050). Never assume someone else has already called.



### ***ADULT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE ACT***

Assemblywoman JoAnn Simon is pleased to update constituents on the Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse Act: Look Back Period. In her office's press release, it states, "One of the things New York State legislators learned while passing the Child Victims Act a few years ago was the shocking number of adults who suffered from sexual violence and abuse but had not known enough about their rights to pursue them legally in a timely manner. This included numerous instances of physicians who preyed on their patients."

In response, the legislature passed the Adult Survivors Act which provides for a one year window to file suit regardless of when the assault occurred. That one year window is now open and closes on November 24, 2023. Anyone who might be protected by this law to look into their newly reinstated right to pursue a civil action for damages: [www.safehorizon.org/adult-survivors-act](http://www.safehorizon.org/adult-survivors-act).



### ***BROOKLYN BUS NETWORK REDESIGN DRAFT PLAN***

Public Comments are needed for the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign Draft Plan. The bus network redesign is an opportunity to upgrade

to a modern, more reliable and quicker system. Buses are a main accessible source of transit for people with disabilities. Everyone is encouraged to review the draft plan and participate in the engagement process so that the MTA can fulfill its goal of a better bus network for Brooklyn. You can access the draft plan by visiting <https://new.mta.info/project/brooklyn-bus-network-redesign>.

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### **STAYING HEALTHY**

Covid, Flu, and RSV cases are on the rise again in the city and will continue elevating through the holiday season. Getting your Covid booster and getting the flu shot are more important now than ever in order to protect yourself and your community. Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) or go to [www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) to find your local Covid and flu vaccine site. Many local pharmacies offer both for ease and convenience.

While there is no vaccine for RSV, you can still take measures to stop the spread. If you have any symptoms—runny nose, cough, scratchy throat, fever—it is recommended you stay home until symptoms have subsided. The CDC also urges people to mask indoors in public settings to help stop the spread.

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### **NEWS FROM BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANTONIO REYNOSO**

The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President is undertaking a comprehensive planning effort for the borough focused on improving public health outcomes for Brooklynites.

Planning issues do not occur in isolation, and entrenched problems cannot be solved on a site-by-site basis. Issues like rising housing

costs, basement flooding in homes, and overcrowded schools are cyclical, deeply intertwined, and do not recognize political boundaries. Comprehensive planning allows officials to take a sober look at local challenges, understand the scope of their impact, and develop holistic, responsive approaches to meet those challenges. It also helps to address three big challenges within planning:

- Identifying, forecasting, and preparing for the greatest challenges each community faces and is expected to encounter;
- Being proactive as opposed to reactive to them; and
- Allowing communities to advocate for one another as opposed to competing for limited resources.

If you are interested in participating in comprehensive planning for Brooklyn, join Borough President Reynoso on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street. You must register in advance. You can also download and review the existing conditions report and find more information about the comprehensive planning process. You may register and access the file by visiting [www.brooklyn-usa.org/comprehensive-planning-bk/](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/comprehensive-planning-bk/).

Additionally, BP Reynoso invites you to attend his State of the Borough Address on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6PM at the New York City College of Technology located at 275 Jay Street, Brooklyn. You can RSVP at [www.brooklyn-usa.org/bk-sotb-rsvp-23/](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/bk-sotb-rsvp-23/).

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### **RESOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION**

The next New York State budget will be developed during the spring of 2023. NYS Senator Jabari Brisport of the 25<sup>th</sup> District

recommends funding for organizations when they submit their budget priorities letter to the Senate Majority Leader each budget cycle. If you would like him to advocate for your organization, please consider submitting a funding request on behalf of your group to Senator Brisport via this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScipPqdMkUB51POU-68jWfs2a2a2eq90bJveixqyGWphcf4Q/viewform>.

This form will close to submissions on January 2nd. You may still request a meeting after that date, but organizations who applied via this form before the deadline will receive first preference on the Senator's calendar for a meeting. If you have any questions, contact Senator Brisport's office at 718-643-6140.

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### ***NARCAN TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES***

Join Councilmember Chi Ossé, Assemblymember Phara Souffrant-Forrest, and Phoenix House on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 4 to 5PM for free Narcan Training for Businesses. Owners and staff of eating and drinking establishments are invited to attend the free training to learn how to administer Narcan and protect neighbors and patrons from overdose. The training will be held at Basquait's Bottle located at 1198 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. For more information, contact Councilmember Ossé's office at 718-919-0740.

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### ***VOTER ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The NYC Campaign Finance Board's Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC) is holding a virtual post-election hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The Committee wants to hear from voters and election workers about their

experiences in the 2022 elections. You can find more information about the hearing on the NYC Votes Events Calendar at <https://www.nycvotes.org/events-calendar/>.

To attend, you must register in advance to receive the link. The registration link is found on the NYC Votes Events Calendar by searching "Virtual Meetings." Anyone who wishes to submit written testimony or deliver spoken testimony must register, and then complete a Google Form before the VAAC hearing.

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### ***NEIGHBOR NIGHTS AT BOTANIC GARDEN'S LIGHTSCAPE***

Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is pleased to announce "Neighbor Nights" for the Lightscape show at a discounted rate of \$20! The promotion welcomes those who might find the regular price tickets too expensive.

Using the code "CB8" will unlock flat-rate \$20 tickets for events held on Neighbor Nights when purchasing tickets through <https://bbg.org/lightscape-neighbor-nights>.

Quantities are limited and will be first-come-first-served.

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### ***RESTRICTIONS ON PLASTIC BEVERAGE STRAWS, STIRRERS, AND SPLASH STICKS***

Enforcement on restrictions against plastic beverage straws, stirrers, and splash sticks in New York City plastic commercial establishments are in effect. NYC food establishments must:

- Stop offering plastic straws, splash sticks, and stirrers.
- Maintain a supply of plastic straws and provide only upon request at no charge.

- Display a sign at each self-service area that states “Plastic straws available upon request.”

Compostable (paper, plant-based, wood) straws, splash sticks, and stirrers are acceptable. Establishments can download sample signs, and proprietors and customers can learn more about the law at [www.nyc.gov/straws](http://www.nyc.gov/straws), or by calling 311.



***ANNUAL CHILDREN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION***

The West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) invites you to their Annual Children Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 17, 2022. The celebration will be held from 1 PM to 5 PM and is open for children ages 1 year to 12 years old at WIADCA’s headquarters at 1561 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-467-1797.



***HELP IDENTIFY SMOKE SHOPS***

The NYC Dept. of Consumers and Worker Protection (DCWP) is seeking your help identifying unlicensed smoke shops in District 8. If there is a smoke shop near you, please email us the name and address of the shop so that DCWP can verify that it is operating legally with the proper license.

Please note that this request is not for cannabis/cannabinoid products and is only for tobacco based products. Cannabinoid products are regulated by New York State, and being a city agency, DCWP is only concerned with city-regulated tobacco based items. However, that being said, if you see any cannabinoid (specifically marijuana) based shops, you can still send us the information as most of these shops are illegally operated. State officials are

currently in the process of accepting and reviewing applications for cannabis premises licenses.



***CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING***

The Crown Heights North Association’s (CHNA) Holiday Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6:45 PM at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn. Please bring an unwrapped toy and enjoy holiday festivities.

For more information, contact CHNA at 646-580-8229 or via email at [info@crowheightsnorth.org](mailto:info@crowheightsnorth.org).



***TOY AND SUPPLY DRIVES***

Several toy, clothing, and hygiene drives are occurring in our district! Some details on several are as follows:

***Hygiene Drive*** sponsored by Brooklyn Community Board 8. Donations will be given to Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue. Items needed include bar soap, shaving cream, women’s hygiene products, socks, and the like. Donations will be accepted through the end of the month at the District office.

***Holiday Toy Drive*** sponsored by Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez through December 15, 2022. Requested items needed are soccer balls, jump ropes, basketballs, dolls, handbags, trading cards, watches, stuffed animals, and sports teams paraphernalia. Donations can be dropped off to the DA’s office located at 350 Jay Street Lobby. For more information call 718-250-3888.

**Holiday Toy Drive** sponsored by Senator Zellnor Myrie through December 15, 2022. Unwrapped toys for ages 0 years to 14 years can be dropped off at the Senator's office located at 1077 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-284-4700.

**Toy Drive and Give-A-Way** sponsored by the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and Clergy Council through December 16, 2022. Toys can be dropped off at the 77<sup>th</sup> located at 127 Utica Avenue. The toys will be distributed at a Toy Give-A-Way on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from Noon to 5 PM at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn.

**Suit Drive** sponsored by the National Black Prosecutors Association through the end of the month. Clean clothing items inclusive of lightly worn professional attire can be dropped off to the DA's office located at 250 Jay Street on the 19<sup>th</sup> Floor. For more information call 718-250-3388.

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### ***BECOME A NYC LIFEGUARD***

NYC Parks Department is starting their lifeguard recruiting early to avoid shortages during pool and beach season in 2023! If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard, visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards). If you have any questions, contact [lifeguard@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:lifeguard@parks.nyc.gov).

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### ***\$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS***

High school seniors are invited to apply for an Albert Shanker Scholarship. The process is easier than ever with a new online portal.

Candidates must be financially eligible and be accepted in a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. Education is believed to be the gateway to a productive life, and this opportunity will instill a greater sense of belonging — and motivation — for your child to make it through their higher education. The new deadline to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship is Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

For more details on the scholarship, visit <https://www.uft.org/news/around-uft/awards-honors/albert-shanker-college-scholarship-awards>. Encourage your graduating students to apply!

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Congratulations to CB8 member Ms. Glinda Andrews, who retired from the NYC Dept. of Finance after 36 years of service.

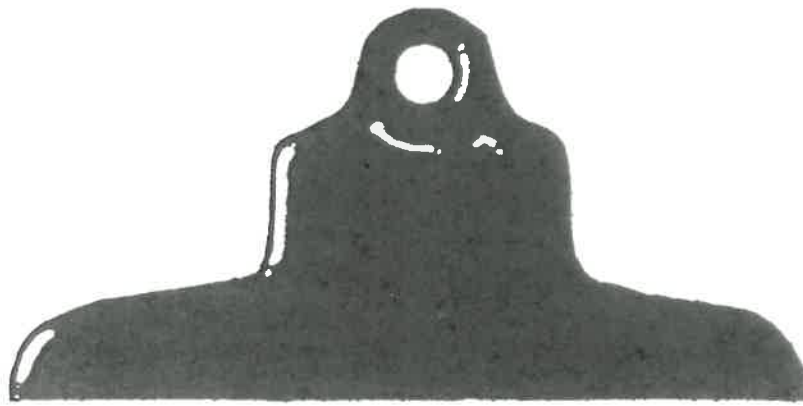
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### ***CONDOLENCES***

We send our heartfelt condolences to CB8 member **Ms. Princess Benn-James** on the loss of her husband, Wesley.

We send our heartfelt condolences to CB8 member **Mr. Meredith Staton** and his wife, Mrs. Lula Staton on the loss of their daughter, Linda.

We send our heartfelt condolences **Ms. Doris Alexander**, former District Manager of Community Board 8, on the loss of her sister, Freda Gatling. Ms. Gatling retired from the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development Code Enforcement's Unit and served as the representative to CB8 for several decades.



Condolences for all can be sent to the CB8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Ms. Frances Langley, Dr. Sarah Lazur, and Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of December.

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**The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7 PM at Casablanca located at 713 Nostrand Avenue (enter on Sterling Place), Brooklyn.

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**The next 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 7 PM. Please call Community Affairs at 718-636-6410 for location details.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2023** at a location to be determined.

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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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