Borough President Adams and Deputy Borough President Reyna honored sixteen local she-roes, the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar, held at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Mayor Eric Adams donned cultural attire during a celebration of Nowruz. Important tips include installing smoke alarms on every floor and within 15 feet of every sleeping area, staying in the kitchen while cooking and limiting distractions, never leaving burning candles unattended, and protecting electrical cords from damage; more information can be found at www.nyc.gov/firey. He also called for the creation of a burn center in Brooklyn which, despite being home to the largest population in the United States, currently has no such facility; the Sassoon family’s mother and one of her daughters were brought in critical condition. Borough President Adams announced a borough-wide fire safety education campaign and called for the creation of a burn center in Brooklyn. On the right, Borough President Adams demonstrated FireSonar, a new companion app for smoke detectors, as part of his ongoing fire safety effort. Photo Credits: Kathryn Kirk/Brooklyn BP’s Office

COMMUNITY ALERTS

As part of his commitment to helping reduce the homelessness crisis facing Brooklyn and New York City, Borough President Adams hosted a presentation on Tuesday, March 24th at Brooklyn Borough Hall by the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) on reforms to the agency’s Homebase and Living in Communities (LINC) programs to local elected officials, landlords, real estate agents, and brokers. For households on the brink of homelessness, Homebase provides access to an extensive network of neighborhood-based services to help them remain in their communities; customized housing assistance plans include eviction prevention mediation, short-term emergency funding, financial counseling and household budgeting; as well as assistance in obtaining employment and public benefits. LINC Rental Assistance programs were created to help move families out of shelter and into stable housing. For more on either of these programs, visit www.nyc.gov/dhs.

Our Constituent Assistance Center is here to serve all of Brooklyn. If you or someone you know are having any issues, or if you have questions about issues like alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup or other community matters, such as the matters in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3777.
The problem of illegal conversions and cubicle living has persisted for at least four decades in New York City. Cubicle living has grown in Brooklyn Borough Hall; however, while also protecting housing opportunities for tenants currently living in unsafe conditions.

Borough President Adams maintains a Mitchell-Lama Task Force, which hosted a community viewing of a powerful documentary titled “Operation PROMote Success,” a powerful documentary that explores two communities and their quest to improve the life chances and educational outcomes of children. The film is a heart-wrenching and inspiring story about the triumph of the human spirit.

The toughest members of the media are sometimes the youngest! On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams hosted aroundtable on climate change with student reporters from PS 29 John M. Harrigan in Cobble Hill. He answered some hard-hitting questions about his educational agenda for Brooklyn and offered some long-term career advice to the journalists-in-training.

On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams was proud to join Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina, and members of the Muslim community at PSIS 30 Mary White Ovington in Bay Ridge to announce that Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha had been added as official school holidays. He hailed the decision as not only a significant sign of respect to families that want to meet their religious and educational duties without conflict, but as an incredible opportunity to bring all of the City’s students closer together through cultural appreciation.

LATEST INITIATIVES

On Monday, April 3rd from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) will host a community forum on the Consumer Financial Protection Act (CFPA) and the consumer. If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by e-mailing askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

In response to the brutal beating of a 15-year-old female by four teenage girls inside a McDonald’s in Flatbush, an attack which was recorded and went viral, Borough President Adams announced a $1,000 reward, which he would personally fund for information leading to the arrest of those responsible. At a press conference outside the McDonald’s on Thursday, March 12th, he joined community leaders to denounce the violence, urge the community to provide information, and call for greater efforts to stem gang behavior, which is believed to be related to this event.

BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC L. ADAMS’ MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams joined a multi-agency meeting with representatives of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Housing Preservation and Development on Wednesday, April 15th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall, to discuss the importance of early childhood development. The meeting is an opportunity to ensure that children achieve their greatest potential in school and in life.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Currently scheduled dates include Monday, April 13th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at New Lots Library, located at 605 New Lots Avenue, and Thursday, April 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Woodhull Medical Center, located at 750 Broadway.

Borough President Adams is joined by Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina, and members of the Muslim community at PSIS 30 Mary White Ovington in Bay Ridge to announce that Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha had been added as official school holidays. He hailed the decision as not only a significant sign of respect to families that want to meet their religious and educational duties without conflict, but as an incredible opportunity to bring all of the City’s students closer together through cultural appreciation.

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Let her in! That was the rally cry of Borough President Adams at an event he held on Sunday, March 15th with a citywide coalition of men along with Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, chair of the Committee on Women's Issues, to demand that leadership in Albany allow the first-ever female, namely State Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to sit in on statewide budget negotiations. Following the rally outside 250 Broadway, home to the downtown legislative chambers for the Assembly and State Senate, he launched a MoveOn.org petition on the issue that gained hundreds of signatures within its first twenty-four hours.

Nowruz is the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar, a holiday observed by communities from Central Asia. On Sunday, March 15th, for the first time ever, Brooklyn Borough Hall was host to a celebration of this spring festival, as Borough President Adams donned cultural attire and tried some traditional dances.

The luck of the Irish was strong at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, March 17th for Borough President Adams' annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast, co-hosted with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal organization founded in New York City in 1836. The event, which honored four local Irish-Americans for their community contributions, featured performances of the Irish and American national anthems in addition to entertainment by the O'Malley Irish Dance Academy.

Opa! The Greek community was celebrated by Borough President Adams at a cultural heritage celebration on Monday, March 23rd in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Along with an exhibition of traditional dance by local youth and a sampling of ethnic cuisine, the evening was marked by the recognition of a dozen notable Greek-Americans in the borough.

On Monday, March 30th, Borough President Adams hosted a celebration of Women's History Month at Brooklyn Borough Hall, featuring a keynote address from TV anchor, trial attorney, and best-selling author Rikki Klieman. The event featured an expo of women-owned businesses showcasing their wares, as well as the honoring of sixteen local she-roses.

Borough President Adams announced a borough-wide fire safety education campaign on Monday, March 23rd, following a fatal fire in Midwood that claimed the lives of seven siblings, aged five to 16, from the Sassoon family. Important tips include installing smoke alarms on every floor and within 15 feet of every sleeping area, staying in the kitchen while cooking and limiting distractions, never leaving burning candles unattended, and protecting electrical cords from damage; more information can be found at www.nyc.gov/fdny. He also called for the creation of a burn center in Brooklyn which, despite being home to the fourth-largest population in the United States, currently has no such facility; the Sassoon family’s mother and one of her daughters were brought in critical condition to burn centers in the Bronx and Staten Island, respectively, after sustaining severe burns and smoke inhalation.

As part of his commitment to helping reduce the homelessness crisis facing Brooklyn and New York City, Borough President Adams hosted a presentation on Tuesday, March 24th at Brooklyn Borough Hall by the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) on reforms to the agency’s Homebase and Living in Communities (LINC) programs to local elected officials, landlords, real estate agents, and brokers. For households on the brink of homelessness, Homebase provides access to an extensive network of neighborhood-based services to help them remain in their communities; customized housing assistance plans include eviction prevention mediation, short-term emergency funding, financial counseling and household budgeting; as well as assistance in obtaining employment and public benefits, LINC Rental Assistance programs were created to help move families out of shelter and into stable housing. For more on either of these programs, visit www.nyc.gov/dhs.

The first home that Borough President Adams owned was a co-op, and he wants to make more Brooklynites aware of this important option for homeownership. On Tuesday, March 24th, he joined with the Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union and Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) to host a co-op ownership workshop at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Statistics indicate that the homeownership rate for Kings County is 29.63%, compared to the State of New York, which is 33.65%. In a housing co-op, a cooperative corporation owns the building, and the residents own shares in the cooperative, corporation. Resident shareholders receive a proprietary lease for their apartment and pay monthly maintenance charges for shared expenses. UHAB, a non-profit organization that is contracted by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), has a model that focuses on principles like self-help, where residents take the lead on managing and preserving their co-ops, shared equity ownership, and cost-effective sustainability; those interested in learning more can visit www.uhab.org.

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Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams’ Message of the Month

April 2015

What’s Up at Brooklyn Borough Hall?

On Wednesday, March 4th, Borough President Adams was proud to join Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina, and members of the Muslim community at PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington in Bay Ridge to announce that Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha had been added as official school holidays. He hailed the decision as not only a significant sign of respect to families that want to meet their religious and educational duties without conflict, but as an incredible opportunity to bring all of the city’s students closer together through cultural appreciation.

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In response to the brutal beating of a 15-year-old female by four teenage girls inside a McDonald’s in Flatbush, an attack which was recorded and went viral, Borough President Adams announced a $1,000 reward, which he would personally fund, for information leading to the arrest of those responsible. At a press conference outside the McDonald’s on Thursday, March 12th, he joined community leaders to denounce the violence, urge the community to provide information, and call for greater efforts to stem gang behavior, which is believed to be related to this event.

On Thursday, March 19th, Borough President Adams announced a borough-wide challenge to tackle the borough’s consumer debt crisis at the launch of his second annual Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment Month, which he officially proclaimed for the month of April. Joined by partner organizations from the financial, grassroots and small business communities, he showed data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that shows the severity of the problem in Brooklyn, comparatively to the rest of the city, state, and nation; for example, the amount of debt overall that Brooklynites have 10 years or more past due is more than twice that of the entire nation. Based on those statistics, he unveiled his aggressive goal for reducing Brooklyn’s credit card delinquency by four percent in four years, which would bring that metric just below the nation’s average. Borough President Adams also discussed initial steps on how the borough can achieve his call to action, including an education campaign targeting at-risk groups, such as small businesses, youth, and seniors; he emphasized a 2013 report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau showing that only one dollar is spent on financial education for every twenty-seven dollars that are spent on consumer marketing.

Currently scheduled dates include Monday, April 13th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at New Lots Library, located at 605 New Lots Avenue, and Thursday, April 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Woodhull Medical Center, located at 760 Broadway.

Join Borough President Adams and Parent-Child Homes Program for an early childhood development forum on Wednesday, April 15th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. There will be discussions on the importance of early childhood education and how to make sure that children achieve their greatest potential in school and life.

Do you know a graduating high school senior in financial need and in good academic standing? Join Borough President Adams, along with Council Members Robert Cornegy Jr. and Laurie Cumbo, at a prom dress and men’s formal wear giveaway on Saturday, April 25th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The promotion is first come, first serve basis while supplies last, thanks to Operation PROM.

It’s up with Borough President Adams on Thursday, April 30th from 10:00 PM to 1:00 PM for a livestream viewing of International Jazz Day, an all-star global concert in Paris. Following the concert, guests and Brooklyn jazz enthusiasts are welcome to mingle as well as provide information on upcoming jazz performances and special events.

If you have interest in any of these events, please contact us by e-mailing askeric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
ERIC L. ADAMS’
MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take part in Borough President Adams’ second annual Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment Month, which is filled with events to inform and engage Brooklynites of all ages and backgrounds on money matters, especially tackling consumer debt. Currently scheduled events include Survive to Thrive, a series of financial education workshops taking place on Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall; A Small Business Grow in Brooklyn, taking place on Thursday, April 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall; and Women of Brooklyn’s Economy Day, taking place on Wednesday, April 23rd from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall; Brooklyn’s Financial Empowerment Day, taking place on Wednesday, April 29th from 8:00 PM to 11:00 AM, and from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall; and Securing Brooklyn’s Seniors, with sessions taking place on Thursday, May 14th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the YWCA Brooklyn, located at 30 3rd Avenue, and on Friday, May 15th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Borough President Adams invites all to come let their voice be heard at one of his upcoming town halls about improving police-community relations.

The problem of illegal conversions and cubicle living has persisted for at least four decades in New York City. Cubicle living was sometimes the youngest! How can we engage Brooklynites of all ages and backgrounds on money matters, especially tackling consumer debt? What are the events taking place in Brooklyn Borough Hall for the Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment Month? How can one participate in these events? How can one contact Borough President Adams regarding these events? These are some of the questions that the text tries to answer. The text provides a list of upcoming events, including workshops, education forums, and other programs aimed at providing financial education and awareness. The events are scheduled to take place at various locations throughout Brooklyn, and they offer opportunities for community members to learn about money matters, including consumer debt, early childhood development, and women’s economy day. The text also highlights the importance of engaging Brooklynites of all ages and backgrounds in financial education, and encourages participation in these events. Additionally, the text offers a way for people to contact Borough President Adams to express their opinions and concerns about improving police-community relations in Brooklyn.