On Tuesday, April 7th, Borough President Adams hosted his second annual Garifuna heritage event in the courtroom of Borough Hall, in conjunction with Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. and HealthFirst. Guests celebrated the culture of the Garifuna, descendants of West African, Central African, Carib, and Arawak people, with entertainment and food from the regions. Today, the Garifuna live primarily in Central America, along the Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

Play ball! Little league baseball kicked off for many of Brooklyn’s young sluggers on Saturday, April 11th at ballfields across the borough, and Borough President Adams traveled around to cheer them on toward a great season ahead. Stops on his tour included the 68th Precinct Youth Council in Bay Ridge and the Bonnie Youth Club in Flatbush.

Borough President Adams hosted a mission of elected officials and political leaders from Johannesburg at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, April 13th to share best practices in municipal governance and to build the foundation for potential future partnerships between the borough and South Africa’s largest city.

Let’s go Nets! Borough President Adams, joined by Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce CEO Carlo Scissura, challenged Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed on Friday, April 17th to a bet over the playoff series between the Brooklyn Nets and the Atlanta Hawks. The hated Hawks advanced despite the Nets playing valiant basketball, so the ATL will enjoy a basket of Brooklyn-made products as a result; there are no real losers here!

Continued on next page
Happy Earth Week, Brooklyn!

Borough President Adams had a series of eco-focused programs aimed at reducing waste, shrinking the borough’s carbon footprint, and raising recycling efforts, highlighted by a bike-to-work event he held on Wednesday, April 22nd from Grand Army Plaza to Brooklyn Borough Hall. Other events included his second annual Stop ‘N’ Swap® with GrowNYC on Thursday, April 23rd and his Operation PROM giveaway on Saturday, April 25th.

As a 22-year veteran of the NYPD, Borough President Adams knows the importance of building community-police relations. He honored all of Brooklyn’s community affairs officers in a ceremony, attended by NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Monday, April 27th.

Soccer fever hit Brooklyn on Tuesday, April 28th, as Borough President Adams welcomed the legendary New York Cosmos in advance of their first-ever match in the borough, played against Ottawa Fury FC at MCU Park in Coney Island. He kicked the ball around with players at Brooklyn Bridge Park and gave them a pep talk in advance of their kickoff.

Brooklyn Borough Hall got jazzy for International Jazz Day on Thursday, April 30th, as Borough President Adams hosted a viewing party of the 2015 All-Star Global Concert, featuring a cast of internationally renowned jazz artists streamed live from UNESCO headquarters in Paris.
When property taxes, water bills, and other charges against property are unpaid, these unpaid charges become tax liens that may be sold in a tax lien sale. Those who received a lien sale warning or had a tax lien on their home were invited by Borough President Adams to meet with representatives of the New York City Departments of Finance, Environmental Protection, and Housing Preservation and Development on Wednesday, April 15th at Brooklyn Borough Hall. At least four notices are sent before liens are sold, informing about the sale and advising to pay debt(s) so that the lien is not sold. The last day to pay debt or enter into a payment agreement is Thursday, May 14th; the lien sale will take place the following day. Visit www.nyc.gov/finance with any property tax issues, www.nyc.gov/dep regarding water and sewer charges, or www.nyc.gov/hpd for emergency repair and alternative enforcement charges.

In 2014, over 15,000 cases were investigated of child abuse or neglect by the New York City Administration for Children’s Services. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and Borough President Adams showed his appreciation for the hardworking individuals and organizations that have surpassed job expectations to achieve positive outcomes for children and families at his Brooklyn Cares Awards on Tuesday, April 28th in Brooklyn Borough Hall. Every child deserves to be safe. If anyone suspects child abuse or neglect, they should call the State Central Register at (800) 342-3720, or call 311 and ask to be connected to the hotline; all calls are confidential. Those that want to learn more about child abuse and neglect, including potential danger signs, should visit www.nyc.gov/acs.

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.
Community Education Councils (CECs) are charged with promoting student achievement, advising and commenting on educational policies, and providing input to the Chancellor and the Panel for Educational Policy on matters of concern to the district. On Tuesday, April 14th, Borough President Adams joined State Senator Jesse Hamilton and Assembly Member Walter Mosley in announcing a legislative effort designed to engage and empower parents of the over 50,000 children in New York City’s pre-K programs, allowing them to run for a seat on a CEC. The plan is designed to allow parents an earlier opportunity to engage with the New York City Department of Education and to have a stronger voice in the city’s education policy.

On Thursday, April 16th, Borough President Adams rallied with hundreds of Brooklynites outside Brooklyn Borough Hall for Family Friendly Brooklyn, his new initiative focusing on the wellness of the borough’s large number of families with young children. According to the United States Census, there are roughly 200,000 Brooklynites under the age of five, a figure higher than the New York State average. He unveiled his plans for a public lactation room in Brooklyn Borough Hall, the largest City building to host such a space, and for working with legislators to have public breastfeeding zones established in City-owned and State-owned buildings. Family Friendly Brooklyn also calls for funding for the mental health screening of new mothers, addressing the complications of postpartum depression and anxiety, as well as the passage of the Paid Family Leave Act, legislation which is currently pending in the State Legislature.

According to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, people aged 60 years and older comprised 42.7% of Brooklyn’s 473 pedestrians killed in the ten years from 2003 through 2012, though they made up only 16.2% of the population. Borough President Adams addressed this issue outside the AMICO Senior Citizens Center in Borough Park on Tuesday, April 21st as he announced CROSS (Connecting Residents on Safer Streets), his new initiative to improve street safety for the borough’s vulnerable pedestrians. The effort includes a commitment of $1 million in capital funding from Brooklyn Borough Hall in Fiscal Year 2016 to construct sidewalk extensions, known as “bulb-outs” or “neckdowns”, at intersections determined to be dangerous, based on crash data from the New York City Department of Transportation.

In a New York Daily News op-ed titled “Locking Up New York’s Future” on Thursday, April 30th, Borough President Adams made the case for securing the gains of broken-windows policing without ruining people’s lives through unnecessary warrants for certain quality-of-life offenses. His call for summons reform, made as the New York City Council considers a similar proposal, was made on the basis of justice and of public safety, such as to prevent criminalizing normally law-abiding citizens with unnecessary warrants and destroying their futures.