

UPDATE FROM [NOVEMBER]
Gale A. Brewer
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

  [galeabrewer](https://twitter.com/galeabrewer) | www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov | 1 Centre Street, 19th Fl., New York, NY 10007 | (212) 669-8300

**You're invited! Public School Town Hall with DOE Chancellor Carmen Fariña
Nov. 12.**

I'm proud to host Chancellor Carmen Fariña at a "Public School Town Hall" to discuss new education initiatives, including the just-announced School Renewal Program, technology in schools, parent engagement, capacity framework, and school quality snapshots. Also, we'll have a brief presentation on getting involved with Community Education Councils, and (of course!) audience Q&A. Please RSVP to vrecalde@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-4039. Wednesday Nov. 12, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, John Jay College, Room L.61 (524 West 59th St.).

Leadership at the NYPD.

I was saddened to learn of the retirement of Chief Philip Banks III after 28 years of exemplary service to the NYPD and our city. His experience and sensitivity made him an invaluable part of the NYPD leadership team. I trust that Commissioner Bratton will appoint an able replacement, but Chief Banks set a very high bar with his responsiveness, courtesy, and understanding of the City's diversity. Chief Banks was the go-to person for many communities, and he will be sorely missed. I know all New Yorkers wish him all the best in his life after public service.

Ebola Community Forum spreads facts instead of myths.

At the first meeting of my African Immigrant Task Force in early October, Kofi A. Boateng, Executive Director of the [West Harlem Development Corporation](#), raised the need for a community event to help address the medical facts and dispel myths about the disease. We had no idea how quickly New York City would become central to the Ebola story in the U.S.!

Our event at the Aronow Theater on the [CCNY](#) campus featured two panels of medical experts and human-rights advocates, one describing the City's response and another with reports from the front lines in West Africa. Speakers included representatives from [New](#)

[York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#), [Office of Emergency Management](#), and [Doctors Without Borders](#).

While distress and sadness is a proper response for those who have become sick or who have died, we must not allow our emotions to veer into panic and spread fear, misinformation, or discrimination. By learning the facts at events like these from medical professionals, New Yorkers can meet the challenges of this disease with our most powerful weapon: the truth.

Community Board leadership trainings continue; 2015 CB Applications online later this month.

Scores of Community Board members have participated in the fall “semester” of trainings in my office. [Sign up online](#).

Remaining courses include:

- “Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity” (Nov. 6)
- “Diverse, Inclusive, and Transformative Leadership” (Nov. 10)
- “Community Portal Data and Mapping Planning Tools” (Nov. 12).

Mark your calendars—on November 17, applications to become a Community Board member in the 2015 cycle go online at my website!

Clinical study of impact of 9/11 attacks on Manhattan children seeks teen participants.

A federally funded clinical study of the impact of the 9/11 disaster on children needs volunteers. The study is being conducted by Dr. Leonardo Trasande at the NYU School of Medicine. Community Boards 1, 2, and 3 have already passed resolutions in support of the study. If your children—or those you know—are between 13 and 21 years of age, they may qualify. Contact the research coordinator, Jenny Lee at (646) 501-9166 to find out more.

EVENTS

November 5: “College Is Possible” event for high school students with disabilities.

I’m proud to be co-sponsoring with the [NYC Dept. of Education](#) and [CUNY](#) an event that will help high schoolers with disabilities and their parents understand the options for

attending college. Specialists from DOE, CUNY, and the [NYC Special Education Parent Centers](#)—as well as translators for those speaking Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin—will be on hand at the Municipal Building, 1 Centre St., Mezzanine level (enter at the North Tower); doors open at 5:30 pm and the event runs from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. [Register online](#), or if you require special accommodations, please register at 212-677-4650, x 22.

November 6: Salute to women veterans.

My office is proud to participate in [NYC Veterans Week](#), joining with the [United War Veterans Council](#) (UWVC) to host a panel of local female veterans, discussing their experiences in transitioning home.

Featured speakers will include Gen. Loree Sutton, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs, and Col. Mary Westmoreland, of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. Admission and refreshments are free. RSVP to Torie Recalde at vre calde@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-4039. Thursday Nov. 6, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, 20 West 44th St. (between 5th & 6th Avenues).

November 24: “New York Knows” launches to encourage HIV testing in Manhattan.

Building on success in the Bronx and Brooklyn, the [NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Bureau of HIV/AIDS](#) is launching “New York Knows” in Manhattan, bringing together Manhattan community partners to encourage those who do not know their HIV status to get tested—and to link those who test positive to care and support services. Monday, November 24, 9:00 - 10:30 am, at the CUNY School of Public Health Auditorium, 2180 Third Avenue (at E. 119th St.).

November 11: Hell’s Kitchen Farm Project urban harvest celebration.

The produce from this rooftop vegetable farm is donated to a local food pantry. Join them as they celebrate the fall harvest with homemade food, special drinks, music, and rooftop tours. Tuesday, November 11, Metro Baptist Church, 140 West 40th St., 6:30 - 8:30 pm. More info at hellskitchenfarmproject.org.

Through November 20: Municipal Building Thanksgiving food drive.

My office and the [NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#) (DCAS) are sponsoring a building-wide Thanksgiving food drive to benefit [City Harvest](#) in the Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street. Everyone is encouraged to leave nonperishable food items in

collection bins located in the North and South Lobbies, my 19th floor office, and the 21st floor office of DCAS. Some items that are particularly needed: canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter (plastic jars), mac & cheese, hot & cold cereal (packaged, family-sized). For questions, please contact Torie Recalde at vrecalde@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-4039.

Waclaw Oczeretko paintings of nautical culture in the MBPO Gallery.

Waclaw Oczeretko, a Polish painter living in America since 1987, is the November exhibitor in the MBPO Gallery at 1 Centre Street. He has always been fascinated with sailing, nautical culture, and impressionist art—and living in Mastic Beach on Long Island has only deepened that fascination. The opening reception is Nov. 7, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, and his works are on display during business hours in my office until Nov. 28. [Find out more about his work.](#)