

UPDATE FROM [OCTOBER 2015]
Gale A. Brewer
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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Brewer, Brooklyn BP Adams recommend changes in policing.

A series of forums and roundtables in Manhattan and Brooklyn form the basis for a report on improving police-community relations issued jointly by my office, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and civil rights attorney Norman Siegel.

Hundreds of New Yorkers—including NYPD officers and supervisors—came together at our police-community dialogues in Washington Heights, East Harlem, and the Lower East Side. We brainstormed ways of increasing understanding and trust between police and the neighborhoods they protect, and the ideas in this report are the fruit of those conversations. You can download a copy of the 193-page report here: bit.ly/PoliceCommReport.

You can also view an informative segment on NY1 which is viewable [here](#) (NY1 has a paywall, but the first ten segments are free).

Grow: Urban Garden Symposium announced for October 14.

Join my office, Cornell University Cooperative Extension and the Randall's Island Park Alliance at the first-ever *Grow: Urban Garden Symposium* at the American Museum of Natural History on October 14. This event was announced in my Grow report last spring, about the need for more support for those trying to make things grow in the heart of our city. You can view and download a copy of the report here: bit.ly/GardenReport

Come hear from an array of experts to learn how to start your own garden or take your current garden to the next level. If you've been thinking about starting an urban garden in your neighborhood or introducing a hydroponic lab in your school, then this is the symposium for you! For more information on our upcoming symposium, contact David Dodge at ddodge@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-3872.

Access Manhattan: Providing services for stronger communities.

Every day, from a storefront on 125th Street, my North Manhattan Office helps residents with their economic, environmental and quality-of-life concerns. This fall, we are excited to launch *Access Manhattan*, a series of workshops and forums that connect the community with the essential city services they need. Our first workshop will be an info session on the IDNYC identification card, on October 6, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. More events on topics ranging from tenant support, senior rent freeze eligibility, licensing for African hair braiders and small business grants will be held over the next few months. For the latest information on Access Manhattan, visit my [website's event page](#).

Open House New York: The complete 1820 Randel map of Manhattan on display October 17.

10:00 am – 4:00 pm , 1 Centre St., Mezzanine (North entrance)

As part of the amazing Open House New York weekend, my office will display the complete John Randel map of Manhattan—which includes the first map to plot Manhattan’s numbered street grid from Houston Street to 155th Street, as set out in the 1811 “Commissioner’s Plan.”

As you may know, Borough Presidents are responsible for maintaining the official maps for their borough. My office’s Topographical Bureau is the sole repository for these 92 individually hand-drawn and hand-colored panels, which will be assembled into a room-size display roughly 16 feet by 60 feet, in a way that allows map geeks to examine every part of the formative plan which guided the development of Manhattan over the following 195 years. Please join us! Visit the [Open House New York website](#) to find out about registration for this and all OHNY events.

Fall 2015 Community Board Leadership Development Series.

The third semester of my office’s continuing education program is beginning this month with two-hour classes on topics important to Community Board members, ranging from Land Use and Zoning to Open Data. All sessions are open to the public on a space-available basis (priority is given to current Community Board members). All fall sessions will be held in the Northern Manhattan office, 431 W. 125th St. Please [register online](#) or contact Paola Liriano at pliriano@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or 212-669-2094.

SUNY’s “Attain” lab opens at Drew Hamilton Houses.

The State University of New York offers an array of courses in their “Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking” (ATTAIN) labs across the state. The latest lab has opened at the Drew Hamilton Houses’ Community Center in Washington Heights, with classes in remedial academics, occupational topics like child care, security officer, and ESOL training and a technology training series ranging from basic digital literacy to Microsoft Office certification and Microsoft Technology Associate topics. Learn more on their [website](#).

EVENTS

October 4: Medieval Festival in Ft. Tryon Park.

11:30 am - 6:00 pm, Fort Tryon Park

The Washington Heights & Inwood Development Corporation, in conjunction with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, sponsors the 31st Medieval Festival in Ft. Tryon Park on Sunday, October 4. The festival park is transformed into a medieval market, bringing to life the customs and spirit of the Middle Ages. Visitors are greeted with medieval music, dance, magic, jesters and a live chess game by performers in costume. A thrilling joust between four knights on horseback starts at 5:00 pm. For more information visit the [WHIDC website](#).

October 10: Free smoke alarms & fire prevention session.

11:00 am - 2:00 pm, MBP Northern Manhattan office, 431 West 125th Street

In honor of National Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department of New York is launching “Get Alarmed NYC” sessions to promote fire safety awareness—including free smoke detectors, on a first-come, first serve basis, for everyone who attends! Our Northern Manhattan Office is hosting a session—with bilingual Spanish-English presenters—on Saturday, October 10. RSVP by calling (212) 531-1609.

October 14: Grow: Urban Gardening Symposium (see story above)

October 17: Open House New York display of the complete 1820 Randel Map of Manhattan (see story above)

October 22: NYC Small Business Services workshop on training grants.

6:00 - 8:00 pm, MBP Northern Manhattan office, 431 West 125th Street

Our Northern Manhattan office is hosting a NYC Small Business Services workshop for owners interested in obtaining grants of up to \$400,000 for employee training. If selected,

the program will eliminate the financial limitations to giving employees the skills they need to increase productivity, and help you build a more competitive company. By investing in your workforce, your small business can increase profits. RSVP with Ahmed Tigani at atigani@manhattanbp.nyc.gov. For more info visit the [NYC Small Business Services website](#).

October 26: Domestic violence awareness walk/vigil/speak-out.

5:30 pm, Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Plaza, 163 West 125th Street

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and there will be a series of events—a walk, candlelight vigil, and speak-out—sponsored by my Northern Manhattan Office and the Upper Manhattan Domestic Violence Services Collaborative. At 5:30 pm the walk will begin (rain or shine), the vigil starts at 6:00 pm, and the speak-out begins at 6:15 pm. To RSVP or for more info call (212) 531-1609 or (646) 442-3100.

In the MBPO Gallery: paintings by Gail Comes, reception October 7.

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

Gail Comes grew up on the Upper West Side in a house surrounded by the arts, so it's no wonder her interest in figurative and portrait painting began in her teens. She studied anatomy and drawing for eight years at the Arts Students League and has also studied at The Studio School and Pratt Institute. Comes has exhibited in New York and Amsterdam, and is our exhibitor in our gallery this month. The opening reception is October 7, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and works are on view through October 30 during regular business hours.