

UPDATE FROM [SEPT. 2015]
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

About Times Square.

It's clear that the renewal of Times Square, as an area for pedestrians and as a major shopping destination, has been a major success. A large part of that success has been the re-routing of Broadway at Duffy Square, creating a pedestrian-friendly plaza. The plaza has helped make Times Square the "Crossroads of the World" once again.

But with success comes problems. As Borough President, I have been working with colleagues and the Times Square Alliance on a solution to the proliferation of the costume characters and now the "desnudas"—women who wear body paint above the waist rather than clothing—as they demand payment after being photographed with pedestrians.

I don't agree. And until the mayor spoke out, no one who funded, designed, built, maintained, or enjoyed car-free Times Square thought the plazas should be destroyed. It took real leadership and vision —and plenty of money—to create a kind of New York not just for motorists.

Mayor de Blasio has created a task force to address these issues, and asked me to join it, and has said that closing the plaza and reopening Broadway is "on the table" as a solution; NYPD Commissioner Bratton is one of the advocates of this position.

I think the task force should meet and hear more about the issue which I and the Alliance have been grappling with for some time. Putting back the honking, angry, fume-filled Broadway parking lot at the Times Square "bow tie" would be no accomplishment. Surely we cannot go back to destroying the city in order to make it safe for more cars.

Apply now to fill one of the scores of school crossing guard vacancies.

With the school year starting this month, NYPD is accepting applications for 41 school

crossing guard positions across Manhattan. These jobs offer regular hours, steady pay starting at \$11.50 an hour, and includes benefits if weekly hours exceed 20 per week. [View the chart](#) my office has assembled to see the current available slots by precinct, with each precinct's contact information so you can arrange to apply there.

Internships in my office.

It was a full summer in our office, and for our summer interns as well. We had over 80 interns, 31 male and 51 female, from over 60 schools. They worked on our summer meals information program, our curb cuts report, drafted correspondence, and conducted community outreach. We now need interns for the fall, from either the undergraduate or graduate level. Prospective interns must be committed to connecting with and delivering for Manhattan's diverse neighborhoods, communities, and constituents. Candidates should submit resumes and cover letters to [Brian Lafferty, Special Projects Coordinator](mailto:blafferty@manhattanbp.nyc.gov), at blafferty@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

Reminder: MCAP grant applications due Sept. 10.

Applications for Manhattan Community Award Program (MCAP) grants of \$3,500 - \$5,000 for programs for nonprofits and public schools are due Friday, Sept. 10. To apply or find more information on MCAP grants, [visit my website](#).

EVENTS

Sept. 17: MBPO public hearing on congestion.

10am, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St.

Increased traffic congestion in the central business district prompted Mayor de Blasio's administration to propose a "temporary" cap on the number of for-hire vehicles licensed by the city. But Uber and similar for-hire vehicles are only one piece of a larger congestion puzzle, and that's why my office will conduct a public hearing on causes of and solutions to Manhattan traffic congestion. It's my hope that this public hearing will enable New Yorkers to get the full picture of both the problem and potential solutions from a broad range of experts and interested parties.

Sept 16 & 29: Small Business Roundtables in Tribeca & the East Village.

Two more of my office's small business roundtables will be held this month giving a neighborhood's small business owners, Community Board members, and small business agencies the chance to discuss their problems and brainstorm solutions. These roundtables

are part of my continuing small business preservation campaign as outlined in our small business report: bit.ly/SmallBusinessBigImpact (PDF). If you're a small business owner in one of these neighborhoods and you'd like to participate, contact **Ahmed Tigani** in my office at atigani@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

- *Tribeca: Sept. 16 at 6:30pm.* Cosponsored with Community Board 1
- *East Village: Sept. 29 at 7pm.* Coposponsored with the East Village Independent Merchants Association.

Sept. 19: Learn to ride a bike class for adults.

10am - 12pm, Jackie Robinson Park, 152nd St. and Bradhurst Ave.

If you have arrived in adulthood without ever having learned to ride a bike, now is your chance! BikeNewYork—the city's leading proponent of biking as a practical, healthy and sustainable means of transportation and recreation—is offering adults the chance to learn at a free two-hour clinic. To register, [visit their website](#).

Sept. 20: Join us for the African American Day Parade.

Please join my staff and friends to march in the 46th annual African American Day Parade, on Sunday, September 20th. We will be assembling at 12 noon at the 111th St. and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. staging area, and marching with posters honoring 46 New Yorkers who dedicated their lives to serving the residents of Harlem. The parade kicks off at 1 pm and travels up Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. to 136th & Malcolm X Blvd.

Sept. 21-22: From blueprint to action: ending the AIDS epidemic.

New York State Dept. of Health is hosting a statewide series on “Ending the Epidemic,” implementing Gov. Cuomo’s plan to end the AIDS epidemic by 2020. Receive the most current information about HIV/AIDS; help identify service gaps, and learn more about ending the epidemic. For more information, [visit their website](#). Two discussions are slated for Manhattan:

Northern Manhattan: Sept. 21, 9am – 1pm, NY State Office Building, 163 W. 125th St., 2nd floor. [Register by September 14.](#)

Lower Manhattan: Sept. 22, 9am– 1pm, 90 Church Street, Conference Room 4A/B. [Register by September 15.](#)

All month in the MBPO Gallery: Arlen Hollis Kane painting and photography.

Sept. 10 opening reception: 6-8pm, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

A one-woman show of the paintings and photography of Manhattanite Arlen Hollis Kane is the September show in our gallery, with an opening reception on Sept. 10. Kane will exhibit photographs on New York City subjects, abstract compositions, and also abstract paintings. Visit the exhibit during normal business hours in the MBP offices at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South.