

Flatbush Ave BID

April 18, 2018

Dear Flatbush Ave. BID Business or Property Owner,

Following are highlights and details about the BID to bring you up to date on what we are doing to enhance and improve Flatbush Avenue's businesses and properties and add to its success as a shopping district. Also, please take our important (and short!) camera survey to help improve safety on our block!

Please take a look at the following pages for important information on:

- Upcoming Events
- Free Programs for Business and Property Owners
- News
- What is the BID?

Thank you,



Lauren Elvers Collins
Executive Director
718-282-2500, x66351
FlatbushAveBID1@gmail.com

I. Upcoming Events

70th Precinct Community Council (Wed. 4/25/18 at 7:30 p.m. at PS 249 at Caton Ave. and Marlborough Rd.)

Come meet the 70th Precinct's commanding officer, community affairs detectives, and the officers who patrol Flatbush Avenue and adjacent residential areas and hear updates on safety and crime. The Checkers on Church Ave. and E. 18th Street will be providing food...please come!

Sidewalk Sales (Fri. 4/27/18, Sat. 4/28/18, and Sun. 4/29/18 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.):

During this three-day sidewalk sales weekend, BID members can legally set up and sell from tables in front of their businesses. Remember that:

- 5 feet of unobstructed sidewalk must be provided for pedestrians at all times.
- You can only sell items you ordinarily sell in your business.
- You must display the City permit in your window (available for free from the BID).
- Outdoor dining requires the additional display of an existing NYC Dept. of Health - Food Service Establishment Permit - please contact the BID for more information.

Flatbush Avenue Street Fair (Sun. 7/1/18 from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Flatbush Ave. from Parkside Ave. to Cortelyou Rd.)

Join us at the fair for great food, music and live performances, free raffle of prizes from BID businesses, carnival rides, and lots of shopping! The B41 bus will be rerouted on this section of Flatbush Ave. for the day. BID members can register for a free space but must register in advance so please contact us today.

Church Ave. from Ocean Ave. to Flatbush Ave. is likely to be closed as well.

Sponsorship by Con Edison, ModernMD, with additional sponsors coming soon.

Check www.Facebook.com/FlatbushAveBID for updated details.

II. Free Programs for Business and Property Owners

(If you don't have internet access, please contact the BID for help signing up for any of these programs.)

1. New Skills, New Jobs:

What is it? This on-the job training grant for eligible small businesses reimburses you for 70% of your new hires training wages up to 280 hours. The NYC Dept. of Small Business Services will guide you through the whole process. Note that you must be accepted in this grant program before your new employees start training but once you're in the program, your ability to hire and be reimbursed for much of your training costs for up to 3 new hires lasts for 6-9 months (with reimbursement within 30-45 days).

Contact: David Cuevas, Program Manager, NYC Dept. of Small Business Services at 212-513-9206 or DCuevas@sbs.nyc.gov

2. Commercial Lease Assistance

What is it? If your business needs help with a commercial lease issue in New York City, you may be eligible for free legal services.

Website with details and application form:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/commercial-lease-assistance-program>

3. Compliance Consultation (compliance with regulations from Sanitation, Consumer Affairs, Fire Dept., etc.)

What is it? The NYC Department of Small Business Services offers no-cost compliance consultations to help you understand how to comply with key City rules and regulations to avoid receiving common violations. Their on-site consultation walkthroughs will help you understand common compliance challenges faced by new or operating business owners in New York City. They will **not** issue violations or fines - they are here to help you understand the rules.

Website form to sign up: <https://nycgov.tfaforms.net/277734>

4. NYC Building Operator Training:

What is it? Free training on energy efficiency for multifamily operations and maintenance employees:

- Is a 30-hour training for supers, operators, and maintenance staff of small to mid-sized multifamily buildings (5-50 apartment units or between 5,000 to 50,000 gross sq ft).
- Offers courses at locations throughout the city.
- Provides course curriculum materials in Spanish and English.
- Is offered at NO COST to all eligible participants!

Website with spring/summer enrollment calendar: <http://www.cunybpl.org/opstraining/>

Contact: Jessica Vicuna, CUNY Building Performance Lab Training Services at 917-318-8570 or opstraining@cunybpl.org.

III. News

Increasing security for Flatbush Ave. businesses: In addition to a grant from the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' Operation Safe Shopper program to install several external **security cameras** on Flatbush Ave., we're compiling a list of all Flatbush Ave. BID buildings with working external security cameras.

Please fill out this **very short paper survey** and return it to Hope at FlatbushAveBID3@gmail.com or call her at 718-282-2500, x66350 with your answers. Even if you don't have cameras, we ask that you respond.

Staff:

Our Deputy Executive Director Scott Grimm-Lyon has moved on to another organization but we are thrilled to introduce **Hope Moriki as our new Project Coordinator**. A former manager of a small business coffee shop, event coordinator, and volunteer treasurer for two school programs, Hope will be assisting with all aspects of the BID's programs and events so expect to meet her soon. She can be reached at 718-282-2500, x66350 or HopeM@churchavenue.org.

We will also be gaining a planning professional from the NYC Dept. of Small Business Services' Neighborhood 360 Fellows program. This individual will be fully paid by the City and will be working full time for ten months producing a community art contest to create lamp post banners and holiday lights for either end of the BID, enhancing and upgrading our social media use to better promote BID businesses, and creating two networking events for members. More information to follow...

IV. What is the Flatbush Ave. BID?

Overview: The BID is supported through a tax assessment on the properties on Flatbush Ave. from Parkside Ave. to Cortelyou Rd. Funds go towards daily supplemental sanitation, on-street security guards, small business assistance, marketing and promotion, events, advocacy, salaries, insurance, and office expenses. The assessment is being raised this year from \$314,520 to \$386,000 to cover our rising sanitation and security costs and add new banners and holiday lights, holiday advertising, and special event insurance for the annual street fair.

Apply to Join the Board of Directors: Our board of directors consists of property and business owners representing several commercial properties, Capital One Bank, Cookies Dept. Store, Globe Electronics, as well as representatives from the offices of the Mayor de Blasio, Brooklyn Borough President Adams, Councilmember Eugene, NYC Comptroller Stringer, and Community Board 14. We have two openings for property owners and one for a Flatbush Ave. resident. Time commitment is minimal and you have the opportunity to shape the future of Church Ave.

- **Contact us if you're interested in learning more about joining the board!**

Sign Up for the BID's Email List: Join the BID's email list so you are among the first to know when there are important BID updates like special events, street work, changes to business regulations, etc.

Staff: Contact us at any time with questions, suggestions, complaints, or to get assistance:

Lauren Elvers Collins, Executive Director
Church Ave. BID
2244 Church Avenue, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11226
Office: 718-282-2500, x66351
Fax: 718-826-3746
FlatbushAveBID1@gmail.com

Hope Moriki, Project Coordinator
Church Ave. BID
2244 Church Avenue, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11226
Office: 718-282-2500, x66350
Fax: 718-826-3746
FlatbushAveBID3@gmail.com