

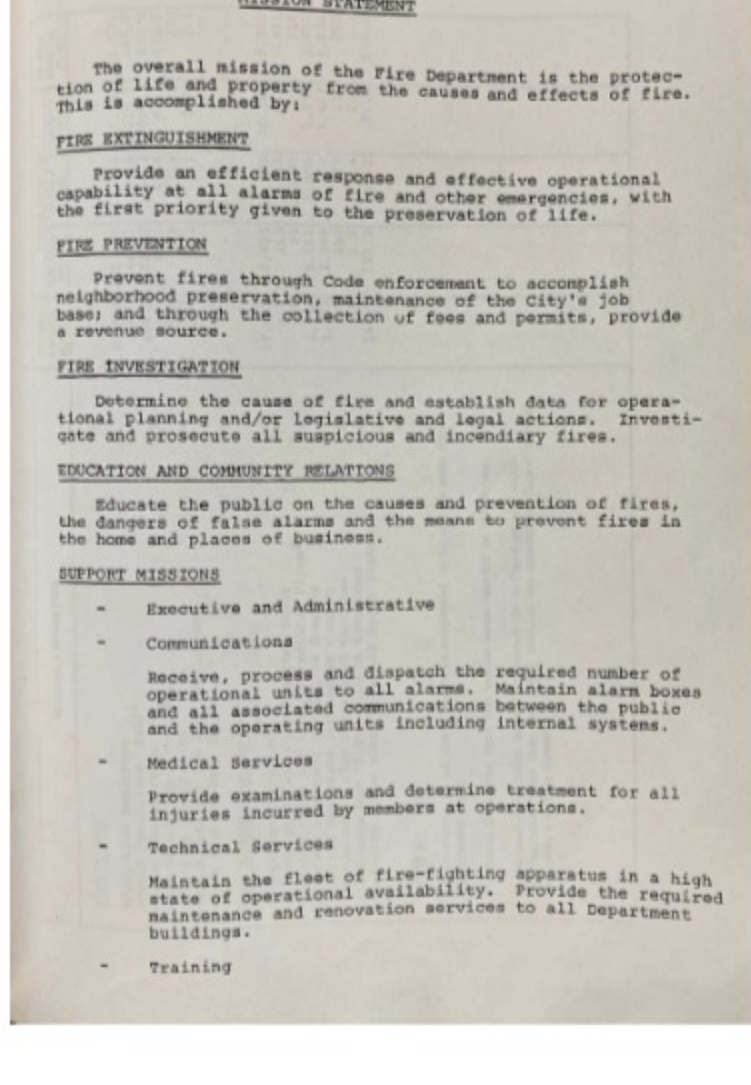
Municipal Library Notes - April 2023

Spotlight on: Mayor's Management Report

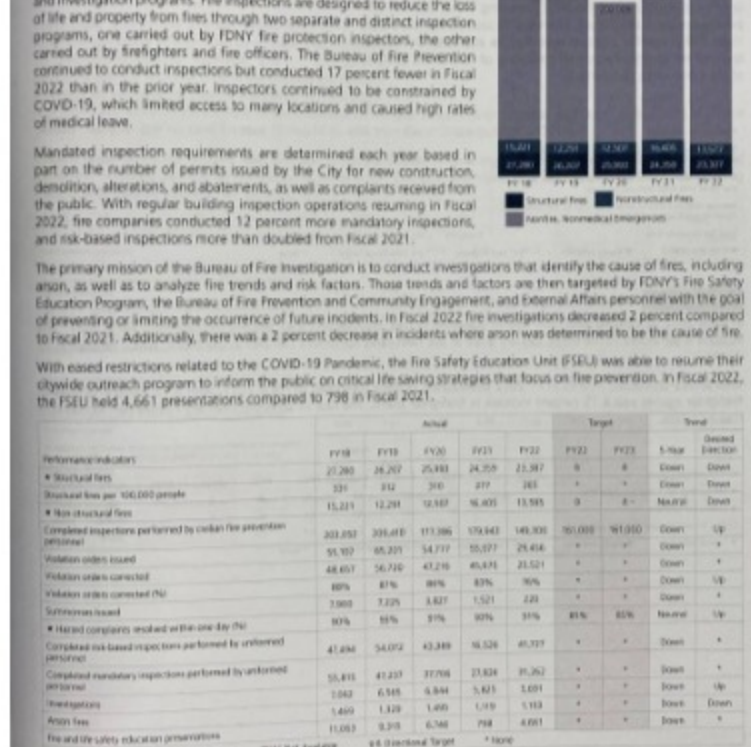
By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

Section 12 of the New York City Charter requires the Mayor to provide both a preliminary and final management report for each fiscal year. The preliminary report appears in February and the final management report in September. The MMR, as it is often known, presents performance data for city agencies. Goals, metrics, and services have all changed over the years, but the reports provide historical information and a perspective into the workings of city government agencies.

Here is a page from the first MMR in the Municipal Library collection, dated February 1977, about the Fire Department. Note the Mission Statement of the Fire Department is presented.



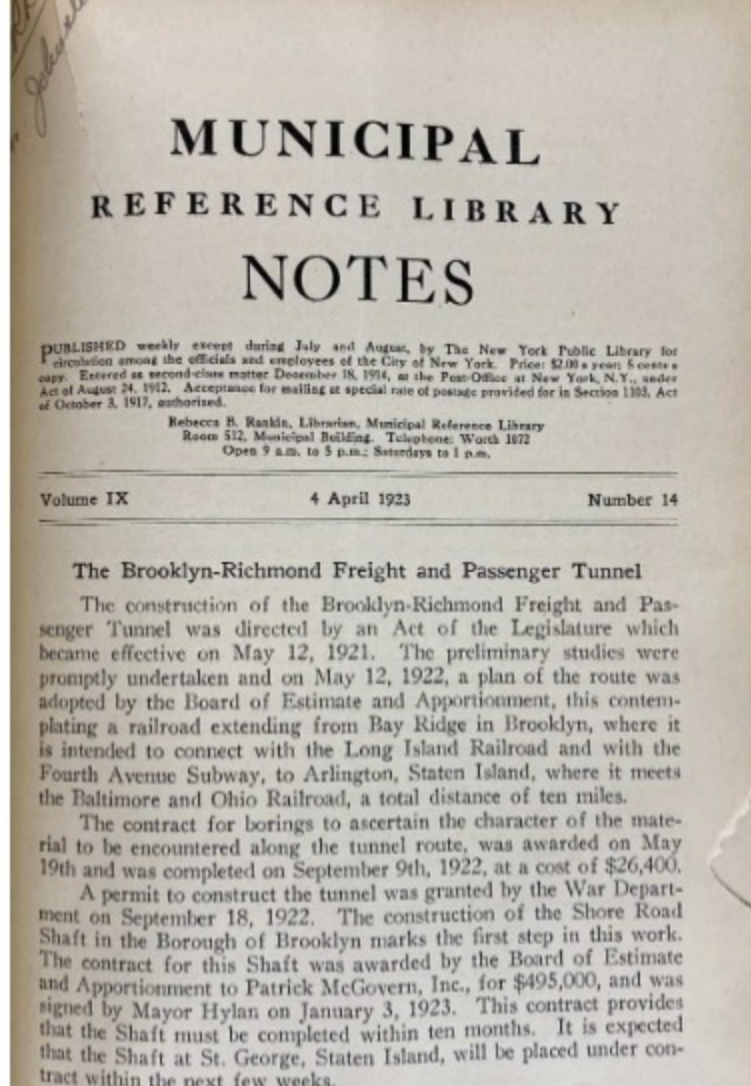
This page is from the September 2022 report also about the Fire Department and the performance of the agency for fiscal year 2022.



Municipal Reference Library Notes, Brooklyn-Richmond Freight and Passenger Tunnel

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The April 4, 1923 issue of Municipal Reference Library Notes features an article on the Brooklyn-Richmond Freight and Passenger Tunnel. When completed, the tunnel would provide for development of extensive freight and passenger rail services connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island, eventually linking to trunk line (main line) railroads in such places as New Jersey and New England. However, the tunnel was never finished due to lack of funding, political issues, transit concerns and other factors. Attempts to revive the project have been varied. Here is the first page of the article:



From the Board of Estimate Preliminary Report of a Special Committee concerning the tunnel, a sketch of the connections proposed for Bay Ridge, Brooklyn from 1921.

In the 1990's, a plan for a Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel began to be considered. Congressional Representative Jerrold Nadler oversaw funding for a revived project. Various studies were commissioned by the New York City Economic Development on the feasibility of constructing this tunnel between New York and New Jersey. Some of these studies can be found in the Municipal Library collection. Further studies were done and then all work was suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In February 2022, under the auspices of the Port Authority of NY and NJ, feasibility studies resumed. Representative Nadler was able to assist in obtaining funding from the Federal Highway Administration for this project. For more information, visit the Port Authority [website](https://www.panynj.gov/).

What is ChatGPT?

By Praveen Panchal, CIO, Department of Records

You have likely heard about ChatGPT, a revolutionary new Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that has created significant buzz since it was released last year in November. It is an AI tool that is built on large language model and trained on a large body of text from various sources such as books, news articles, Wikipedia, scientific journals, or other information sources. In full, ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-training Transformer), is software that allows a user to pose queries using conversational, or natural, language. One main reason for ChatGPT's popularity is its accessibility and user-friendliness. The service is available publicly to anyone via the OpenAI website (<https://openai.com/>), and some of the applications range from writing poems to school homework to legal briefs to writing an abstract for an essay.

While ChatGPT is an exciting new tool worth looking into, there are uncertainties regarding long-term implications such as legal and ethical issues related to copyright, privacy, misuse, bias, and transparency. It is important for users to be aware of these issues and take necessary steps to mitigate them

Celebrating National Volunteer Month at DORIS

By External Affairs Division, Department of Records and Information Services

April is National Volunteer Month. Join us to protect our city's rich heritage!

Volunteers at the NYC Department of Records and Information Services help us fulfill our mission to preserve and provide access to the city's invaluable historical and contemporary records. There are many ways to contribute. Learn more about a few rewarding volunteer opportunities below:

Share your story and the story of your NYC community with the City's Neighborhood Stories project. This storytelling initiative gathers and permanently preserves oral history-style interviews with local community members in the Municipal Archives.

Create resources for K-12 educators and students. Education volunteers create curriculum aids using primary sources from the collections of the Municipal Archives and Library.

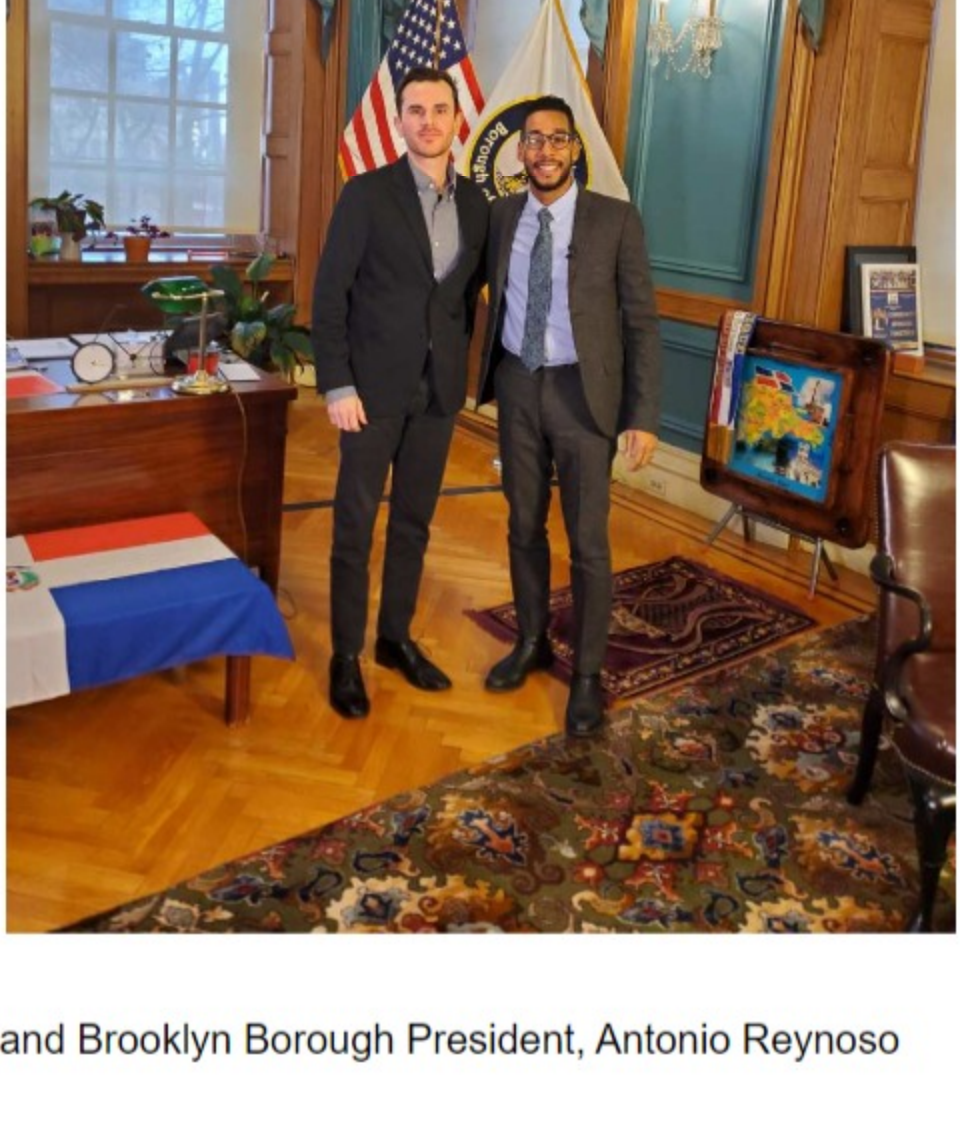
Join a transcription project. Ready to start tagging, indexing, and transcribing? This work makes these records more accessible to everyone. Find a topic that interests you and join the team!

- Help record information from the handwritten messages left by family members to their loved ones on the wooden beams surrounding the World Trade Center construction site during memorial services.
- Transcribe a collection of original employment applications for local movie theatre matrons.
- Review and edit autogenerated transcripts of interviews, as well as provide timecoding and index for audio and/or video recordings.

For more information about our volunteer opportunities, please email: volunteercoordinator@records.nyc.gov

Volunteer Spotlight - Keith Walpole, Neighborhood Stories

By External Affairs Division, Department of Records and Information Services



Keith Walpole and Brooklyn Borough President, Antonio Reynoso

It is often said that DORIS is a small agency with a huge mission - to preserve and promote the history of New York City. To sustain such a mission, DORIS relies on the energy, expertise, and goodwill of our dedicated corps of volunteers. These volunteers hail from all walks of life and they are the pivotal ingredient that transforms so many of our projects from vision into reality. They're the people on-the-ground, collecting stories, creating memories, and helping us build an enduring connection between our city's past and its future. We are deeply grateful for all of them.

Keith Walpole is one such individual. A volunteer with our Neighborhood Stories Program since 2021, Keith has been a touchstone of our reliability and enthusiasm for the project. Since joining us, Keith has spoken to participants from across the city, conducting more than twenty interviews. Keith's skill as an interviewer has been particularly noteworthy, especially during his conversation with Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso this past winter. Keith has also assisted our office with technical hiccups - truly going above and beyond to help preserve the oral history of New York City neighborhoods. We can't thank Keith enough for everything he has done for this agency and our work.

It is thanks to individuals like Keith, who generously donate their time, attention, and ingenuity, that DORIS is able to sustain programs like the Neighborhood Stories project. We are deeply grateful for his contributions, and the contributions of all the people who choose to volunteer with us. Thank you, Keith!

To learn more about volunteering with us, email: volunteercoordinator@records.nyc.gov.



The NYC Department of Records & Information Services (DORIS) is hosting a Humanities New York Listening and Discussion program using the podcast series [Amended](https://www.amendedpodcast.com/) for the month of May. Join each of the 4 sessions and ring in Spring with important conversations surrounding the complexities of women's suffrage. Attend every Friday from 1-2pm to participate in learning and sharing a more holistic picture of the fight for equality for all women and women-identified beings. Each session will be led by scholar Gunja SenGupta. Register soon because space is limited. [RSVP here!](https://www.amendedpodcast.com/)



Schedule:

May 5 - Episode 1: [Myths and Sentiments](#)

May 12 - Episode 2: [Any Women](#)

May 19 - Episode 3: [Of Rights and Wrongs](#)

May 26 - Episode 4: [Embers and Activism](#)

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