

YOUTH COURT LOCATION

All hearings take place at:

Brownsville Community Justice Center

444 Thomas Boyland St., Rm. 106 (Between Pitkin Ave and East New York Ave)

Brooklyn, NY 11212

Directions:

C train: Take the C train to Rockaway Avenue station. Exit at the Hopkinson Avenue end of the platform and walk south on Hopkinson Avenue (also called Thomas Boyland Street) toward Atlantic Avenue. Cross Atlantic Avenue and continue on Thomas Boyland Street. The building will be on the right.

J/L/A trains: Take the A/J/L/Z train to Broadway Junction. Transfer to the B12 bus toward Ocean Avenue. Exit at East New York Avenue and Amboy Street; and follow the directions below (for B12 bus).

B12 or B7 Bus: Take the B12 or B7 bus to East New York Avenue & Amboy Street. Walk east on East New York Avenue towards Thomas Boyland Street. Make the first right on Thomas Boyland Street. The building will be on the right.

B14 Bus: Take the B14 bus to Pitkin Avenue and Thomas Boyland Street. Walk north on Thomas Boyland Street (toward East New York Avenue). The building will be on the left.

B60 Bus: Take the B60 bus to Rockaway Avenue and Pitkin Avenue. Walk west three blocks and turn right onto Thomas Boyland Street. The building will be on the left.

B47 or B15 Bus: Take the B47 or B15 bus to Sterling Place. Walk east on Sterling Place for three blocks to East New York Avenue. Turn left on East New York Ave, walk one block, and make a right on Thomas Boyland Street. The building will be on the right.

YOUTH COURT OVERVIEW

The Brownsville Youth Court is a program for young people aged 10 – 18 referred by local schools, community organizations, courts, and police for offenses such as assault, theft, vandalism, and truancy. These young people appear before a judge and jury of their peers – other neighborhood teens – who determine fair and appropriate responses. The Brownsville Youth Court emphasizes:

Responsibility: Youth Court teaches young people that actions have consequences. Because this message comes from other young people, it is more likely to be heard and understood. The Youth Court process asks respondents to reflect on their actions and understand how their behavior affects others around them.

Restoring the Community: Youth Court members care about their community and expect the same from their peers. Youth are often sanctioned to restore the harm done to their community through service, apologies and other actions. Service is conducted at local parks, food pantries, and other community sites.

Help: The Brownsville Youth Court links young people to social services, such as counseling, job training and mentoring and also provides skill building workshops to help them avoid further disciplinary action at their school

or program and/or future involvement with the justice system.

Leadership: Youth Court teaches young people how to be leaders. Members are trained in group-decision making, critical thinking and public speaking. Youth who have successfully gone through the Youth Court as respondents are encouraged to apply to become members.

Hearings, which take place in the evenings, are open to the public. All participants and observers must take an oath of confidentiality.

Before the Youth Court hearing, the youth meets with his/her “Youth Advocate,” a young person who performs a role similar to a defense attorney. During the hearing, the youth tells his/her story and is questioned by members of the jury. Unlike a traditional court, the youth has opportunities to speak throughout the hearing. After considering all of the information, the jury decides on a fair and appropriate sanction that allows the youth to be accountable for their actions and restores harm done to the community.

Brownsville Youth Court staff members closely monitor the completion of sanctions and share the results with the referring organization.

YOUTH COURT CONTACT INFORMATION

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