



# ANNUAL BROOKLYN ALLIANCE BREAKFAST

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 9:00am - 12:00pm



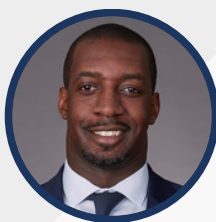
**Featured Speaker**  
Eric Gonzalez  
Brooklyn District Attorney



**Jonnel C. Doris**  
Start Care<sup>SM</sup>  
Chief Executive Officer



**Guest Speaker**  
Jamie Neckles  
Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Mental Health,  
NYC Department of Health,  
and Mental Hygiene



**Guest Speaker**  
K. Torian Easterling  
Principal Member of  
NE Peak LLC



**Guest Speaker**  
Saeeda Dunston  
Chief Executive Officer  
of ELMCOR



**Alliance Co-Chair**  
Bishop H. Curtis Douglas  
Sr. Pastor Dabar Bethlehem Cathedral



**Alliance Co-Chair**  
Bishop Curt E. Courtney  
Sr. Pastor Emmanuel Church of God



## **Jonnel C. Doris**

### **Chief Executive Officer of StartCare**

Jonnel previously served as Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services and as the founding Executive Director of the NYC Office of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises. Before his appointment as Commissioner, Doris was the first Chief Diversity Officer for the NYS Office of Storm Recovery, which managed New York State's \$4.4 billion recovery effort following Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee.

Doris has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career, including the 2024 Crain's New York Business Notable Black Leaders, the 2024 Schneps Media Brooklyn Power List, and the Women Builders Council Diversity Champion Award. He also serves as a Trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and as a Board Member of the Founding Chapter of One Hundred Black Men of New York and TruFund Financial Services.

He holds several degrees and certificates, including a Certificate in Strategy for Health Care Delivery from Harvard Business School, a Master of Divinity from Oral Roberts University, and both a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Analysis and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from Stony Brook University.

## **Featured Speaker**

### **Eric Gonzalez**

#### **Brooklyn District Attorney**

District Attorney Eric Gonzalez leads the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office with a belief that lasting public safety is built on fairness, partnership, and trust. Under his leadership, Brooklyn reached historic lows in homicides and gun violence in 2025, with a 48% drop in homicides and a 63% decline in shootings since 2020. His approach pairs strong accountability for serious violence with innovation and prevention, making communities safer while reducing reliance on incarceration.

Raised in Williamsburg and East New York during a period of intense violence, Gonzalez joined the Brooklyn DA's Office in 1995 and has prosecuted cases ranging from domestic violence to homicide. Elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021 and 2025, he is the first Latino District Attorney in New York State. He leads an office of more than 1,300 staff serving 2.8 million residents, expanding survivor-centered, accountability, and prevention initiatives, including Project Restore and nation-leading post-conviction justice reforms.



## Guest Speakers

### Jamie Neckles

#### Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Mental Health, NYC Department of Health, and Mental Hygiene

Jamie Neckles, MA, MSW, has led the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Mental Health since 2022. She has held various leadership and direct care roles across the City's public mental health system for 20 years. In her current role, Jamie is responsible for guiding the City's public health approach to improve care, reduce suffering and social isolation, and promote dignity and recovery for people living with serious mental illness. Under Jamie's leadership, the Bureau oversees more than \$500 million in community-based mental health and supportive housing services, operates the City's Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program, and conducts rigorous program evaluation and research to ensure accountability and impact.

Jamie has dedicated her career to promoting health, dignity and compassion for people at the intersection of the mental healthcare, homeless services and criminal-legal systems. Her work embodies a deep commitment to compassion, data-driven innovation, and collaborative problem-solving – values that have strengthened the City's entire behavioral health and social support services ecosystem.

### Torian Easterling, MD, MPH

#### Principal Member of NE Peak LLC

Dr. Torian Easterling is a physician and public health leader recognized for advancing health equity and addressing racial disparities in medicine. He served as the first Chief Equity Officer and First Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he aligned agency-wide equity efforts and led New York City's equity response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the equitable distribution of vaccines to vulnerable communities.

Dr. Easterling most recently served as Senior Vice President for Population and Community Health and Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer at One Brooklyn Health, where he helped establish the Office of Community Health and Health Equity. He currently serves as a Senior Fellow with the Health and Opportunity Leadership Institute at CCNY's Colin Powell School and as Director of the Young Doctors Project-NY.

He holds a B.S. from Morehouse College, an M.D. from Rutgers–New Jersey Medical School, and an M.P.H. from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and completed his residency training in Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine in New York City.



## **Saeeda Dunston**

### **Chief Executive Officer of ELMCOR**

Saeeda Dunston has served as Elmcors Chief Executive Officer since August 2014. With deep personal and familial ties to Queens—particularly the East Elmhurst/Corona communities—she leads with a strong commitment to community empowerment.

A recognized leader in culturally competent programming for marginalized communities, Saeeda has held senior management roles across New York City addressing poverty, anti-racism, healthcare access, and policy advocacy. Under her leadership, Elmcors has strengthened its role as a neighborhood-based service provider and advocate through public and private partnerships focused on reducing socio-economic and health disparities.

Saeeda has expanded Elmcors work in behavioral health, health equity, social and economic justice, and community education, including spearheading the organization’s first Supportive and Affordable Housing Project. Her grassroots advocacy also helped lay the groundwork for the federal COVID-19 funeral assistance fund. She is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother.

## **Alliance Co-Chairs**

### **Bishop Curt E. Courtney**

#### **Sr. Pastor Emmanuel Church of God**

Bishop Curt E. Courtenay, Sr., a Brooklyn native with Caribbean and Central American roots, is President and CEO of Joshua Builders, Inc., a construction firm he founded over 35 years ago that specializes in home building and restoration. Through his company, he has trained and mentored countless young people, helping launch many successful careers in the construction industry.

Bishop Courtenay also serves as Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Church of God in Flatbush, Brooklyn, a multicultural congregation deeply committed to local missions. Beginning his ministry as a youth pastor, he expanded his service as a certified chaplain, providing spiritual care in hospitals, prisons, and community settings, earning a reputation as a bridge builder across generations.

In 2003, he founded the Emmanuel Christian Cultural Fellowship (ECCF) to provide spiritual oversight, coaching, and leadership development for pastors and churches, with a focus on balancing family, ministry, and work. He is the author of *Balancing the Scales of Life* and is passionate about building people as much as he builds homes.



## Alliance Co-Chairs

### Bishop H. Curtis Douglas

Sr. Pastor Dabar Bethlehem Cathedral

Bishop H. Curtis Douglas is the Senior Pastor of Dabar Bethlehem Cathedral in Queens Village, New York, and Presiding Prelate of the Covenant Fellowship Alliance. With more than 45 years of ministry, he is devoted to preaching, teaching, and nurturing souls in the Kingdom of God.

In 1998, Bishop Douglas founded Dabar Worship Center in Brooklyn and was consecrated to the Bishopric in 2007. In 2010, Dabar Worship Center and Bethlehem Missionary Church merged to form Dabar Bethlehem Cathedral, where he serves as Senior Pastor. He provides leadership and mentorship to pastors and churches across the United States and internationally.

A passionate advocate for missions, Bishop Douglas has led ministry teams to countries across the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and Central America. Since 2014, he and DBC, in partnership with Love Without Walls, have supported the construction of a Malaria Wing at a children's hospital in Ghana and funded freshwater well projects.

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