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Want to fight your parking in Brooklyn? Good Luck

[MONE WEICHELBAUM](#)

Friday, January 13, 2012

Brooklynites disputing parking tickets blasted the city Thursday for closing the main billing office and leaving them in the dark.

The Brooklyn Business Center in the municipal building on Joralemon St. closed last month as the ground floor is converted to retail space.

City officials say they let the whole world know through an online campaign.

But Brooklyn residents said they didn't get the online memo.

"They sent a parking ticket to my house, to a Brooklyn address. They should had something in this letter saying 'you can't pay in Brooklyn,'" said Tiffany Johnson, 34, after guards told her she had to go to Manhattan to argue about the ticket.

"I'm really mad," Johnson said.

Department of Finance spokesperson said closure was announced in August.

The retail space will feature shops and restaurants.

"There were tweets and emails," about it, the spokesman said.

"You don't have to go to one of our business centers to contest a ticket. You can challenge your tickets online or by mail," he added.

A big sign greets visitors to 210 Joralemon Street reading: "The Brooklyn Business Center is closed for renovations. The closest center is 66 John Street in Manhattan."

Directions tell onlookers to take the train to Fulton Street.

The examiner Tony Mack, who had just come from the city's property records office, said he often ends up explaining to confused ticketholder what's going on. "They are telling us the construction will take over a year," Mack said.

The shutdown is helping parkingticket.com attract more users who'd rather pay the site to battle tickets than travel to another borough's DOF office.

"Is it good for me that the office is closed? If all the offices closed, it would be even better," said site CEO Glen Bolofsky who has seen a 10% uptick in sales but down.

Hamonese Richardson, 33, said she took the day off from her job as a hospital data coordinator to fight her parking tickets.

She didn't know the office was closed - or that she could have disputed it online.

"It is an inconvenience," she said heading towards the 4 train to the John Street office. "It's crazy."

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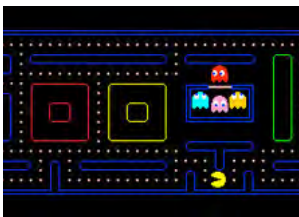
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