
Information that may be of interest...January 13, 2020

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You can also find these eblasts online in PDF (printable) format at www.murrayhillnyc.org in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2020.

Please share this email with a friend, neighbor or colleague. You can sign up for these emails at www.murrayhillnyc.org, scroll down the Also Happening column.

NOTICE TO MHNA MEMBERS: Our Membership personnel and systems are changing, and you may experience delays in receiving your membership information when you join or renew your membership. [An up to date list of the discounts](#) can be viewed on the MHNA website. If you received an acknowledgement email when renewing or joining online, you can use it as proof of membership while you are waiting for your membership card. If you have any questions, please contact info@murrayhillnyc.org.

The MHNA Discount Program

Full list of discounts offered to MHNA members:

[Restaurant and Food Discounts](#)

[General Discounts](#)

For Murray Hill street closures, see Traffic Updates on www.murrayhillnyc.org.

If you would like to join a committee, please send an email to info@murrayhillnyc.org. Information about the MHNA committees can be found on www.murrayhillnyc.org. Click About > Committees.

[Shop amazon.com via this link](#), and support The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association!

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Upcoming events (that missed our last eblast)

January 19 3 - 5pm

Winner's Recital Young Artist Awards: Bixby Kennedy, clarinet and Mika Sasaki, piano

FREE and open to the public (suggested contribution \$10). 2019 Serge & Olga Koussevitzky Young Artist Award winners Bixby Kennedy, clarinet, and Mika Sasaki, piano, perform works by Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Francis Poulenc, Will Rowe (World Premiere) and Paul H. Kirby Rowe (World Premiere). Reception at 3pm with coffee and cookies. Music at 3:30pm. This concert is made possible by Members of the Musicians Club of New York. About the artists: RSVP to rsvp@musiciansclubofny.org with your name and the number of seats you wish to reserve – you should receive a confirmation within 24 hours. Flyer: <https://www.murrayhillnyc.org/photos/Events/mcny20200119flyer.pdf> at Scandinavia House - Victor Borge Hall
58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

Reservations are now open for NYC Restaurant Week (January 21 - February 9)

2-course lunch \$26 | 3-course dinner \$42 (with some exceptions) Visit <https://www.nycgo.com/restaurant-week> to see participating restaurants. Tips on how to take advantage of Restaurant Week: <https://www.nycgo.com/restaurant-week-about>.

Apply by January 21 5pm

Apply to be a Community Board Member

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer is looking for passionate and engaged New Yorkers who are dedicated to making a difference in their neighborhoods. Community Boards play an important role in shaping the character of our city. If you live or work in one of Manhattan's 12 community districts, you are eligible to apply for the 2020-2022 class of CB members. Apply online at <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/cbapplication> or complete a paper application <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CBApplications2019finalLETTERSIZESIZE.pdf>. The online application must be completed in one sitting, so read over the application first and prepare your answers offline. All applications are due by 5pm on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. After you apply, the Borough President's office will contact you about next steps in the screening and interview process. They will announce appointments this spring.

Apply by January 24

Cultural Tourism Grants

Each year, NYC & Company Foundation funds the Cultural Tourism grant, which is designed to support cultural-tourism marketing and audience-development initiatives that will expand awareness of the various neighborhoods throughout Manhattan. Non-profit and cultural organizations are eligible to apply. Applications for this program are due January 24, 2020. Apply at <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/funding/cultural-tourism-grants/>

Source: Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office.

Fair Fares NYC will open for applications on January 27, 2020

Fair Fares NYC is a New York City program to help New Yorkers with low incomes manage their transportation costs. Using the Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, eligible NYC residents ride for half the regular cost. Fair Fares NYC is being rolled out to New York City residents in several phases. As of 9/12/2019, certain existing clients of the NYC Department of Social Services receiving SNAP and/or Cash Assistance have been selected to participate. In the fall of 2019, certain CUNY students, Veteran students, and NYCHA residents who meet the program's eligibility criteria were able to participate in the program. Learn more about Fair Fares NYC eligibility with the [Fair Fares NYC FAQ](#).

January 27 (during the night)

HOPE 2020: Volunteers needed to help count the homeless

On Monday, January 27th, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will conduct its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE), a citywide community volunteer effort to count every New

Yorker sleeping on the street across the five boroughs during the coldest time of the year. We are calling on YOU, our fellow New Yorkers, to help us canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people who find themselves living on the street. We need thousands of volunteers (18 and older) to make HOPE a success. Your fellow New Yorkers need your help. Volunteer at <https://a071-dhsmobile.nyc.gov/dhsmobile/hope/registration/#/>

Apply by February 6

Affordable Housing Opportunities at The Frontier **200 East 39th Street**

Housing lottery in Murray Hill - apply for placement on waitlist at 60% Area Median Income (AMI). Learn more here. <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nycclottery/AdvertisementPdf/919.pdf>.

Changes in the neighborhood



The Grand Central subway entrance at Lexington Avenue and 42nd Street (NW corner) has next to the stairway a new elevator that takes you between street level and the level with the turnstiles. There are additional elevators to take you to the train platforms for the 4,5,6 trains or to the 7 trains, but due to construction inside this station, not all of the elevators to the platform levels are in service. You can check the elevator statuses at any station using the [MTA Trip Planner](#) (tap "Accessible Trip" to get the "Check Elevator" popup).

Temporary Bus Stop Closures on 2nd and 3rd Avenue (M15 and M101, M102, M103) until further notice

M15 (2nd Avenue): West side of 2nd Avenue between 35th Street and 36th Street

The closest bus stops for the M15 Local/SBS: 2nd Avenue at 34th Street (M15 & M15 SBS) or 2nd Avenue at 39th Street (M15).

M101, M102, M103 (3rd Avenue): East side of 3rd Avenue between 33rd Street and 34th Street. The

Closest bus stops for the M101 Ltd, M101, M102, M103 are 3rd Avenue at 31st Street or 3rd Avenue at 37th Street.

Struggling Fairway Market again prepares bankruptcy filing:

January 2, 2020, nypost.com, by Lisa Fickenscher

Known for its quality produce, prepared foods, cheeses and smoked fishes, Fairway is now preparing to seek bankruptcy protection this month after failing to find a buyer for its 14 stores, multiple sources tell The Post...Fairway's downturn started in 2007 when the Glickberg family sold an 80% stake to private equity firm Sterling Investment for \$140 million. Four generations of the family had owned and operated a handful of Fairways in NYC, starting with a fruit-and-vegetable stand that opened in 1933. Fairway quickly fell victim to Sterling's aggressive expansion plan...which only served to burden the company with a crushing \$300 million in debt. Sterling took Fairway public in 2013...Three years later, in May 2016, it filed for Chapter 11 protection after losing money in every quarter of its life as a publicly held company. It was bought out of bankruptcy by an investment arm of Blackstone, GSO Capital, which recently sold its stake. Now owned by lead shareholders Brigade Capital Management and Goldman Sachs Group, Fairway is quietly closing stores.

368 Third Avenue Approaching Final Residential Floors In Kips Bay

January 2, 2020, newyorkyimby.com, by Michael Young

Construction has reached the final floors of [368 Third Avenue](#) in the Manhattan neighborhood of Kips Bay. The 388-foot-tall reinforced concrete structure has risen rapidly since mid-June, when excavation was still underway. Designed by SLCE Architects and developed by Minrav Development, the 35-story, 145,000-square-foot building will house 100 apartments for an average of 1,100 square feet apiece...The development will also contain 3,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space. Photo by Michael Young of [368 Third Avenue](#) looking south.



58 West 39th Street, Aka H Hotel W39, Begins Ascent In Midtown

January 3, 2020, newyorkyimby.com, by Michael Young

Construction is now above street level at [58 West 39th Street](#), aka H Hotel W39, in Midtown. Designed by Peter F. Poon Architect and developed by Wei Hong Hu of H Hotel LLC, the 447-foot-tall, 29-story structure is rising from a narrow plot below Bryant Park between Fifth and Sixth Avenue.

Rendering of [58 West 39th Street](#), designed by Peter Poon Architects



Permits Filed For 500 East 30th Street In Kips Bay, Manhattan

January 11, 2020,
newyorkyimby.com, by Vanessa Londono

Permits have been filed for a 21-story commercial building at [500 East 30th Street](#) in Kips Bay, Manhattan. Located between the East River and Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive, the through lot is adjacent to the East River Esplanade. The nearest subway is the 33rd Street station, serviced by

the 6 train. NYC Health + Hospitals is listed as the owner behind the applications. The proposed 384-foot-tall development will yield 587,137 square feet, with 417,734 square feet designated for commercial space. It is unclear if the new construction will be used as a hospital or a care facility. The concrete-based structure will also have a cellar. Nickolas Zigomanis of Adamson Associates Architects is listed as the architect of record. Demolition permits have not been filed yet for The Water Club property currently on the site. An estimated completion date has not been announced. Photo of [500 East 30th Street](#) via Google Maps.

Business news and resources

SCORE Live Webinars in January

FREE. [RSVP](#) required. If you cannot attend the live webinar, you can view the recorded versions.

Scam targeting small businesses

Protecting small business from imposters

January 9, 2020, [consumer.ftc.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov), by Laura Solis, Attorney, Federal Trade Commission

Opening a business requires...paperwork to register your new company with your state or local government. And that's where [scammers] may try to confuse you into thinking they're from the government and that you need to pay money to complete your registration. Their mailings look like an official bill for documents to complete your registration – and may even include what looks like a government seal...the mailer may include your business identification number...[and claim] that you...could be in legal hot water. But...the people behind the mailers are not from the government...they could be scammers who steal your money or account information...Scammers often target several people in an organization to create confusion...Check all invoices closely. Be sure that you have clear procedures to approve expenditures, and that major spending can't be triggered by an unexpected call, email, or invoice. If you get one of these mailers...check in with the people on your staff who are responsible for filing legal documents with the state. Pay attention to how you pay. If someone tells you to pay with a wire transfer, reloadable card, gift card, or bitcoin...it's a scam. If you spot practices like this, [the Federal Trade Commission] want[s] to hear about it. [Report it] at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

2020 Census Jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is ramping up its national recruiting efforts to hire up to 500,000 temporary, part-time census takers for the 2020 Census in communities across the country. The positions offer competitive pay, flexible hours, paid training, weekly paychecks, and the chance to do good for your community. To determine the pay rate in a specific area, learn more about these positions, or apply for one of the temporary jobs, visit 2020census.gov/jobs.

January 17 2pm

Apply for 2020 Census Jobs at Epiphany Library!

The Census Bureau is hiring thousands of people to earn between \$20 to \$27.50 per hour. Learn about and apply for various job opportunities with the 2020 Census Team. Learn more or apply online at

<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>

at the NYPL Epiphany Library Branch

[228 East 23rd Street](#)

Traffic and transportation

Some Subway Riders Are Being Double-Charged Thanks To Greedy OMNY Scanners

January 8, 2020, [gothamist.com](https://www.gothamist.com), by Jake Offenhartz

Affordability & demographics

NYC evictions down almost 20% six months after state tenant protections enacted

January 6, 2020, [nydailynews.com](https://www.nydailynews.com), by Michael Gartland

Evictions in the Big Apple have plummeted nearly 20% in the six months since Albany lawmakers enacted sweeping new tenant protection laws. The drop, revealed in city data compiled over the past two years, shows evictions in the last half of 2019 stood at 8,951, down from 10,958 over the same period in 2018...Jay Martin, director of the Community Housing Improvement Program, a group that represents building owners

and managers, said that “instead of taking a victory lap” proponents of the reforms should be focused “on developing more affordable housing.”

People Fled NY Faster Than Any Other U.S. State In 2019: Census

December 30, 2019, patch.com, by Adam Nichols

NEW YORK CITY – People are fleeing New York much faster than any other state in the nation, figures released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau show. More than 76,000 people packed up and shipped out of New York during 2019, heading to states such as Florida, Georgia and Texas — which were among the fastest-growing areas...Despite the state's population drop, New York City is still seeing a surge in the number of homes being built. Experts at real estate website Localize.city estimate 26,000 new apartments will hit the market in 2020 — 6,000 more than this year.

Apply by January 20

Citizens Committee for New York City Neighborhood Grants Program

Citizens Committee for New York City is now accepting applications from volunteer-led groups for their Neighborhood Grants program, which provides up to \$3,000 for community improvement projects. Eligible groups include block and civic associations, tenant associations, PTAs, community gardening groups, volunteer organizations working with youth and seniors, and others. Groups do not have to be a 501c3. Examples of projects include turning a vacant lot into a community garden or composting site; facilitating workshops on healthy cooking and eating; beautifying public spaces; arts and cultural programs; and youth fitness initiatives. To apply or for more information, visit <https://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/neighborhood-grants>. The application deadline is January 20th, 2020. Source: Senator Liz Krueger's Community Bulletin - January 2020 email

Preservation & landmarks / sustainability



270 Park Avenue, Quintessential Modernist Skyscraper, Is Being Slowly Destroyed By Chase Bank

January 8, 2020, gothamist.com, by Elizabeth Kim

Chase is about to make an entire 707-foot-tall tower in the heart of Midtown disappear...After applying for work permits last year, the company has been following through on the demolition on 270 Park Avenue, a 52-story black and silver-ribbed office building on Park Avenue between 47th and 48th

Streets, also known as the old Union Carbide building...which is now on its way to becoming the tallest building in the world to be intentionally razed...Hailed as a monument to Modernism, the tower was no dusty

relic...But for all the praise it received from architecture critics, 270 Park lacked the recognition that mattered most: the longstanding request to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate it as a landmark was denied in 2018...The old building accommodated 6,000 of Chase's employees. Its planned 70-story replacement tower is expected to contain 15,000 workers and will be roughly twice the height of the old building, owing to the purchase of air rights from nearby properties permitted under the 2017 rezoning of East Midtown...Late Thursday, the company issued a statement professing its commitment to sustainability, saying that "minimizing the environmental impact is a key priority for our company as we move forward with this project. As of the end of September last year, we diverted over 90 percent of the demolition material from landfills to be recycled or otherwise put to use. When finished, we expect to surpass LEED's highest standard for demolition."...Through the course of the campaign to save 270 Park, one of the interesting facts unearthed is that it was one of a handful of tall buildings in New York City credited to a female architect, Natalie de Blois, who was considered the most prominent woman in her field during her time. Photo by Scott Lynch/Gothamist

Schools

After boycotting his own advisory group, Carranza returns — slamming Cuomo in the process

January 9, 2020, chalkbeat.org, by Alex Zimmerman

Returning to his parent advisory group following a monthslong boycott, Chancellor Richard Carranza dished on inequities in parent association funding, discussed a revised strategy for integrating specialized high schools, and took direct aim at Gov. Cuomo's education funding stance...Some schools with wealthy parents raise thousands of dollars per student, funding a slew of enrichment activities, while many others raise substantially less or no money at all...addressing those disparities will be politically contentious, especially if a solution involves diverting money from wealthier parent groups to fund poorer ones, or setting a cap on the amount of money they can spend...Instead of pushing to overhaul the state law that mandates admission to specialized schools be determined on the basis of a single test, Carranza appeared to back a new strategy to repeal the law entirely, which would give the city control over admissions...Carranza's comments sparked at least one observer to point out the city could change the admissions policies at five of the eight specialized schools with no change in state law, but have chosen not to.

As contract negotiations drag on, NYC principals union says schools are struggling with discipline reforms

January 9, 2020, chalkbeat.org, by Christina Veiga

Suspensions in New York City schools have dropped by almost 40% in the last five years, driven by discipline reforms championed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, who oversees the school system. Many say the changes are necessary because students of color and those with disabilities are more likely to be punished, with potentially significant academic consequences...The union's letter insists members are supportive of the "philosophical shift" in discipline approaches, but says the city has done a poor job implementing changes, and have eroded principals' decision-making in the process...The union cites a survey of members that shows...[j]ust a third said they are satisfied with the education department's approach to school safety. As part of the solution, the union is asking for increased school funding.

Taxes

Dems eye tax package targeting ultra-wealthy New Yorkers — ending tax break for private planes and yachts

January 6, 2020, nydailynews.com, by Denis Slattery

The proposals, which include raising income taxes on the wealthy and reassessing levies on banks, hedge funds and private equities as well as scaling back corporate incentives, come as the state faces a potential

\$6 billion Medicaid-induced budget hole. As part of the package, Sen. Brad Hoylman (D-Manhattan) will introduce legislation rolling back the state's sales tax exemption for luxury yachts and private planes...However, fiscal watchdogs have repeatedly cautioned against measures that specifically target the state's highest earners, noting that their money makes them more mobile.

Voting & elections

Maloney challenger wants a four-day work week and affordable rents

January 3, 2020, brooklyneagle.com, Joe McCarthy

Peter Harrison...is a first-time candidate challenging veteran incumbent Carolyn Maloney in New York's 12th Congressional District, which encompasses parts of western Queens, northern Brooklyn, and eastern Manhattan. He's part of a new generation of activists running for office...democratic socialists who beat long-term incumbents by championing working class issues...he's concerned about the same crop of problems: inequality, climate change and health care. The core issue that drove him into politics, though, is housing...The Democratic primary in Maloney's district is stacked with contenders. Three other candidates are running to unseat Maloney: Lauren Ashcraft, Suraj Patel, and Erica Vladimer. ...A spokesperson for Maloney's campaign said the congressman has been a progressive for decades.

Why New Yorkers may soon be automatically registered to vote

January 9, 2020, lohud.com, by Chad Arnold

ALBANY – Senate Democrats on Thursday kicked off the new legislative session...[b]y passing a series of bills aimed at making it easier to vote in New York...including automatic voter registration, which would register any eligible voter in the state when they interact with certain state agencies unless they chose to opt-out...provisions have been added to strengthen the measure to ensure ineligible voters aren't registered to vote...The bill now heads to the Assembly, which is two-thirds Democratic...The bill was part of a package of voting-reform measures...Among them were bills that add polling places on college and university campuses and require each county to have early voting access in its most populated municipality.

Government, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

New NYC Laws Coming In 2020: Plastic Bags Ban, Cash Bail Reform

December 29, 2019, patch.com, by Kathleen Culliton

Here's how five new laws set to take effect in 2020 will affect New Yorkers.

- Plastic Bag Ban
 - Minimum Wage Increases To \$15 An Hour
 - Cash Bail Reform
 - Marijuana Testing Banned
 - Teens Can Preregister To Vote
-

New York made history this year: Gov. Cuomo's Summary of New York State's 2019 Accomplishments

Source: Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo email of December 31, 2019

- Strongest voting reforms in a generation — including early voting, vote by mail, and same-day voter registration
- Extended labor protections to one hundred thousand farm workers
- Red Flag Law to help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people
- Extended the statute of limitations for second and third degree rape

- Tackled the gender pay gap by mandating equal wages for equal work
- Child Victims Act
- GENDA, making it clear that discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression is illegal in our state
- Dream Act, so that all New Yorkers can have access to higher education
- Banned single-use plastic bags to reduce pollution
- Kept building world-class infrastructure
- Enacted the most ambitious climate legislation in the nation, putting New York on the path to economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2050

Best of all, we've achieved all this while keeping government growth at 2% and lowering middle-class taxes.

Gov. Cuomo's goals for 2020

Source: www.governor.ny.gov

- Hate Crime Anti-Terrorism Act
- \$3 Billion 'Restore Mother Nature' Bond Act
- Paid Sick Leave for Working New Yorkers
- Legalizing Cannabis
- Lowering Tax Rates for Small Businesses
- Continuing Middle Class Tax Cuts
- Protecting Gig Economy Workers
- Fighting Childhood Poverty
- Empaneling Blue Ribbon Task Force to Expand Electric Vehicles
- Ensuring Cellular Coverage Across New York
- Expanding Free College Tuition to More Middle Class Families
- Addressing Veteran and Law Enforcement Suicides and Homelessness
- Increasing and Modernizing Emergency Response Capacity
- Requiring Public Officials to Disclose Their Tax Returns
- Streamline and Simplify New York's Court System
- Building the Empire Station Complex (Penn Station on 34th Street)

Related article: [The governor unveiled more than 30 ideas before he even took the state on Jan. 8](#)

January 7, 2020, cityandstateny.com, by Zach Williams

Related article: **(proposed) Ban on single-use polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) containers**

Source: *Senator Liz Krueger's Community Bulletin - January 2020* email

One issue included in Governor Cuomo's agenda is a ban on single-use polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) containers. [Senator Liz Krueger has] carried legislation for years to ban these products, which take centuries to biodegrade, are effectively impossible to recycle, and are a carcinogen that has become ubiquitous in our environment...Trace amounts [of Styrene] can now be found in the fat tissue of every person in the United States. And the polystyrene manufacturing process is the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste in the country...New York City has already banned single-use polystyrene foam...Alternatives to polystyrene foam are available and affordable, including compostable and recyclable alternatives...polystyrene foam is only one of many petroleum-based waste products we must address. New York took an important step last year by banning single-use plastic bags, and it will be crucial that we ensure this ban is implemented effectively...I will also be working with my colleagues to build support for broader efforts to reduce plastic waste. We need to move to a model of extended producer responsibility that puts the onus on plastic producers to mitigate the impacts of their products by recycling or removing them from the waste stream.

Elevator Safety

Source: *Senator Liz Krueger's Community Bulletin - January 2020* email

On January 1, the Governor signed legislation...to require all individuals engaged in the design, construction, inspection, maintenance and repair of elevators or other automated people moving conveyances to be licensed by New York State (S.4080-C/A.4509). The lack of a licensing requirement for elevator inspectors has been cited in multiple tragic incidents where New Yorkers have been injured or killed by elevator

malfunctions. I cosponsored this bill, and have been working for years with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this loophole in New York law addressed. This new law will help protect the public and prevent injury from unsafe and poorly maintained elevators by requiring all individuals who work with elevators and other automated people moving conveyances to be licensed by New York State. In order to receive a license, these individuals will need to meet necessary qualifications and participate in training and continuing education.

New York companies sending call center jobs overseas could face stiff penalties

January 2, 2020, nydailynews.com, by Denis Slattery

ALBANY — Companies shipping call center jobs overseas could face stiff penalties under a law signed Thursday by Gov. Cuomo. The new measure penalizes companies that move call center jobs to foreign countries, making them ineligible for state loans, grants or tax breaks for a period of five years. Businesses must also repay the value of any grant or guaranteed loans received for the call center in the past five years...“It is long past time New York stopped rewarding companies that send call center jobs overseas with taxpayer dollars,” said Dennis Trainor, vice president of CWA District 1.

Many Major Challenges, Decisions for De Blasio in 2020

January 7, 2020, gothamgazette.com, by Samar Khurshid

2020, the next-to-last year of [Mayor De Blasio's] second and final term, begins with a focus on public safety, including recent spikes in anti-Semitic hate crimes, murders, and bicyclist fatalities...Then there are the intractable issues, such as homelessness, public housing, and school segregation, which continue to confront the mayor...The good news is that economic growth the city has seen for years is expected to continue, albeit perhaps at a slower pace...“We're six years into an administration and there hasn't ever really been a big push to reexamine how government is doing things and making sure it's doing it in the most efficient, effective way possible,” said Maria Doulis, vice president at Citizens Budget Commission, a nonprofit fiscal watchdog...Doulis also noted the “real risks” to the city budget from rising costs at three major entities – the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Health+Hospitals, which are city-run and supported by a mix of funding, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which is effectively state-run.

Looking Back at a Historic 2019 in the City Council

Source: NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera email of December 30, 2019

We introduced 24 pieces of legislation and passed 11 bills in 2019 to protect affordable housing and small businesses, improve animal rights, defend our environment, and better the quality of life of everyday New Yorkers. We fought to ensure transportation innovation, greater protection for our coastal communities, and enhanced oversight of landlords for both public and private housing.

Hate crime stats to be publicly released by NYPD every week

January 6, 2020, nydailynews.com, by Rocco Parascandola

After Death Of Pedestrian, NYC Tightens Inspection Process For Building Facades

December 30, 2019, gothamist.com, by Elizabeth Kim

New York City building officials have announced a raft of changes that they say will lead to greater safety protections and stricter enforcement of the facade inspection process...By law, all buildings taller than six stories must undergo a physical inspection...Under the new rules...Buildings with Class 1 facade violations will receive a follow-up inspection within 60 days and then again, less than 30 days afterwards. Should owners fail to comply with the required safety measures, the city will hire contractors to perform the work at their expense.

Stories we are following

De Blasio's Still Pushing The \$2.7 Billion Streetcar Plan You Probably Forgot About

January 10, 2020, gothamist.com, by Christopher Robbins

In 2016, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the city would begin working on the Brooklyn Queens Connector, a \$2.5 billion streetcar that would trace the waterfronts of the two boroughs from Astoria to Sunset Park...Sunset Park residents fought to take their neighborhood off the BQX's map...and independent reports showed the city's funding scheme to be extremely dubious, the streetcar route was found to be susceptible to serious flooding...But the BQX wasn't dead, just dormant. The de Blasio administration released a new plan for the streetcar in 2018 with a shorter, 11-mile route from Astoria to Red Hook and a bigger price tag, \$2.7 billion...This week the city's Economic Development Corporation and Department of Transportation pledged to start presenting their case to the public early next month, with the goal of coming up with a final design by 2023, and finishing construction in 2029...Now, the city claims that around \$1.4 billion of the \$2.7 billion price tag will be covered by a rise in real estate values—the "value capture" model—while the rest will come from federal funding. The city also suggests that the project will create \$30 billion in gross economic impact over a period of 40 years..."No matter what happens in the future with the BQX, Brooklyn and Queens riders need major bus service improvements now," said Danny Pearlstein, the policy and communications director at the Riders Alliance. [Editor's note (opinion): Why is the city encouraging development in flood-prone areas? We asked the EDC why not use buses rather than permanent structures that could be damaged by flooding, and got the reply that the city knows how to protect assets against flooding. Pardon my skepticism, but this sounds like another transportation money pit.]

Wasted Potential: Lack of oversight lets commercial carters flout recycling rules

January 8, 2020, politico.com, by Danielle Muoio and Sally Goldenberg

The city's commercial waste haulers...[flout] city recycling laws with few repercussions...Industry experts and environmental advocates say the lack of oversight has bred a culture of indifference toward recycling...Advocates and union leaders have for years argued that commercial haulers, looking to pack as many customers onto a single route as possible, are ignoring recycling laws to maximize profits..."Businesses that comply with the law and separate recyclable materials lack assurances from carters that these materials are collected separately and actually recycled," the sanitation department wrote in a [report on the industry](#)...Meanwhile the sanitation department is banking on the law passed last year that will divide the city into 20 zones, served by a maximum of three carters each, to bolster oversight of the industry. Right now the number of haulers and lack of uniform routes make it difficult to enforce recycling standards. [Kathryn Garcia, the city's sanitation commissioner] said she anticipates "robust enforcement" of commingling under the new system because waste haulers will have to report the amount of waste and recyclables they collect and where it all ends up. The sanitation department's larger staff will also be better equipped to regulate for the violations.

[Editor's note (opinion): maybe it's time for New York to be innovative about recycling and to invest in more efficient recycling processes. But the main thing would be to solve the city's garbage problem in an environmentally responsible way and to achieve our green initiative goals.]

Metro New York newspaper sold to Schneps Media, owner of amNewYork

December 30, 2019, nypost.com, by Keith J. Kelly

Free daily newspaper Metro New York is being sold to Schneps Media, according to sources — making it the second freebie paper to be sold in two months...stirring worries among the already small staff that layoffs could soon follow.

Consumer alerts and scams

Mind your work-at-home business

December 30, 2019, consumer.ftc.gov, by Lisa Lake, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC
Starting a work-at-home business can give you the flexibility to set your own hours and be your own boss. But when you search online or get ads by email, you'll often find scammers instead of a real opportunity...[A] company ran ads with made-up news stories and fake celebrity endorsements. Those ads promised people they could make easy money by posting advertising links on websites. The catch? First, people had to pay \$97 in upfront fees...people [got] basic online training materials — but no money-making links, the FTC says.

Our government representatives

When contacting your representative by email, be sure to state your address so that they know that you are a constituent. You can see the District maps and sign up for their emails on their websites.

Manhattan Community Board 5: www.cb5.org, 212-465-0907, office@cb5.org

Manhattan Community Board 6: cbsix.org, 212-319-3750, office@cbsix.org

NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2: council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera, 212-677-1077, District2@council.nyc.gov

NYC Council Speaker, Corey Johnson, Council District 3: council.nyc.gov/district-3, 212-564-7757, SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov

NYC Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4: council.nyc.gov/keith-powers, 212-818-0580, KPowers@council.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer: manhattanbp.nyc.gov, 212-669-8300, info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, #GetHelp, The Office of the Public Advocate assists with complaints and inquiries involving government-related services and regulations. Telephone Hotline: 212-669-7250, email: GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov

Mayor Bill de Blasio: www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor, 311, online message: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page>

Landmarks Preservation Commission: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page>

NY State Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senate District: www.nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger, 212-490-9535, lkrueger@nysenate.gov

NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 27th Senate District: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman>, 212-633-8052, hoylman@nysenate.gov

NY State Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly District 73, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart, 212-605-0937, quartd@nyassembly.gov

NY State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly District 74, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein, 212-979-9696, epsteinh@nyassembly.gov

NY Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Assembly District 75, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried, 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov

U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York's 12th Congressional District: <https://maloney.house.gov>, 212-860-0606, website contact form: <https://maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me>

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer: www.schumer.senate.gov, 212-486-4430, website contact form: <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand: www.gillibrand.senate.gov, 212-688-6262, website contact form: www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me

U.S. President Donald Trump: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/people/donald-j-trump>, website contact form: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

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