

Information that may be of interest...

June 15, 2020

This information is provided by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association. We are sharing it as a service to our members. If this notice does not interest you, please disregard it.

You can also find these weekly newsletters 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.

Coronavirus updates

On June 8, New York City entered Phase 1 of non-essential business reopening.

NOTE: There is still no cure or vaccine for COVID-19. Even as the city reopens, we must all continue to wear face coverings in public, practice social distancing and wash or sanitize our hands often as well as surfaces that are touched.

Overview of industries that are authorized to reopen during Phases 1-4: forward.ny.gov.

Low-risk recreational activities approved to reopen statewide: tennis, golf and driving ranges (not miniature/mini golf) with food and retail services subject to the restrictions that are currently in effect within the region, and non-motorized boat use and rentals, such as row boats, kayaks, and canoes.

Employers must

- **read their relevant industry guidance** www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/reopening-guide
- **develop a safety plan** to be posted where employees can see it at the place of business, see template governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf.
- **complete an affirmation form** to indicate compliance with guidelines forms.ny.gov/s3/ny-forward-affirmation

Gatherings of 10 people or less are allowed statewide. Social distancing measures must be enforced and all participants must wear masks.

Private businesses have the right to refuse service to individuals who are not wearing a mask.

Commercial building owners, retail store owners, and managers of these spaces on the behalf of owners may require temperature checks before entry. Operators of such buildings and businesses have the right to deny entry to anyone who refuses a temperature check, or whose temperature is above the New York State Department of Health's guidelines.

When riding public transportation systems, masks are mandatory, and New Yorkers should follow all guidelines and protocols when riding, including maintaining social distancing to the extent possible, using hand sanitizer and observing guidance.

New York City is now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care.

Dentists can reopen on June 1. Interim Guidance For Dentistry During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency:

governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/DentistryMasterGuidance.pdf.

Medical schools statewide will be allowed to reopen on June 22nd.

Summer day camps can open effective June 29, 2020.

If you must use public transit, wear a mask and limit your speaking around others. Practice social distancing (6') as much as possible. Sanitize or wash your hands with soap and water at the beginning and end of your trip. Try to avoid subways and buses during rush hours.

The New York State stay-at-home directive has been extended to June 27 for businesses that are not eligible to reopen governor.ny.gov/news/no-20231-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

People who participated in protests should get tested for COVID-19. There are free testing centers, or if you are willing to pay a co-pay you can get tested at a pharmacy, walk-in urgent care facility or at your primary care physician. It will take at least 2 weeks to gauge the effect of the protests on the spread of the virus. Free Covid testing sites:

manhattanbp.nyc.gov/manhattancovidtesting. The nearest is Bellevue/H&H, 462 First Avenue. 9am–4pm, M-F. 212-562-5555. If you are willing to pay a co-pay you can contact your doctor or walk-in urgent care or local pharmacy.

All New Yorkers should receive COVID-19 diagnostic testing whether or not they have symptoms or are at increased risk. Immigration status will not be asked and COVID-19 testing and care services are not a public benefit under the public charge rule. Some people get tested before they visit elderly loved ones, if they have been in a large gathering or someplace where they were at greater risk, etc.

Grant (and other) assistance for coronavirus & protest damages

Restaurant Revitalization Program

NYC's Restaurant Revitalization Program, will support unemployed and underemployed restaurant workers using \$3 million from NYC Opportunity, Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC and One Fair Wage, and it will focus on the 27 communities hardest hit by COVID-19. Grants of up to \$30,000 each will subsidize wages of \$20 per hour for at least 6 weeks, supporting 1,000 workers in 100 restaurants initially selected, with preference given to those who offer free or reduced cost meals to New Yorkers affected by COVID-19. Additionally, all restaurants must commit to a \$15 minimum wage on top of tips within 5 years of returning to regular business. www1.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/news/restaurant-revitalization-program.pdf.

The Mayor's Fund Small Business Emergency Grant Program

6/5/2020 **Helping Small Businesses:** The Mayor's Fund has secured \$500,000 in initial funds, with a grant from SOMOS Community Care, to support a Small Business Emergency Grant Program for small businesses who were impacted by looting and experienced damage to their storefronts. These Business Emergency Grants of up to \$10,000 per business will be offered to help with recovery including repairs, security systems, locks and more, starting in the Bronx. The City will also provide access to emergency legal assistance and insurance claim support. The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City will work with Small Business Services (SBS) to assess the level of need throughout the city, with the intent to raise funds for repairs of businesses in other boroughs. www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/409-20/mayor-de-blasio-small-business-emergency-grant-program. 6/11/2020 Signature Bank (NASDAQ:SBNY), a New York-based full-service commercial bank, will donate \$750,000 in funds. The grant will help impacted minority and women-owned businesses as well as those with annual revenues of less than \$1.5 million.

Spectrum Digital Education grant program

Deadline June 26 5pm

Applications are now open for the 2020 program corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants, which will support nonprofit organizations providing broadband training and education in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Awardees will be announced in August and funded in September.

6/2/2020 **The Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that it is setting aside \$10 billion of round two funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to be lent exclusively by Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).** You can find a list of CDFIs in NY-12 on Rep. Carolyn Maloney's website maloney.house.gov/issues/coronavirus-covid-19/help-for-small-businesses.

Insurance claims

Gov. Cuomo has asked the insurance companies to expedite claims of damage from the vandalism in early June. NY State will provide mediation if needed.

VFH (Vote From Home)! Primary Elections

VFH! Everyone in New York State can vote by absentee ballot. Indicate "temporary illness" as the reason. If you are planning to vote in person, you are required to wear a mask/face covering and maintain 6' of distance when entering any Board of Elections facility.

It is important to vote in the primary elections if you want your preferred candidate to be on the ballot. Many Democratic seats are being contested in the Primary Election. In New York State, you must be registered with a party to vote in that party's primary election. What was the coronavirus primary is now the protest primary.

There will be no Republican primary in NYS because there are no contested seats. Most of the other parties also do not have contested seats and will not have candidates in the primary election, except for SAM (Serve America Movement) which has a contest for the 1st Judicial District Judges.

Important Election Dates and Deadlines

June 13-21	Early voting
June 16	Last date to postmark absentee ballot application
June 22	Last day to apply (in person) for an absentee ballot and to postmark absentee ballot (must be received by city BOE by June 30)
June 23	Democratic Primary Election / Last day to deliver absentee ballot (in person) to the city BOE

Official voter guide nycfb.info/nyc-votes/vgwelcome/guide-to-voting-in-the-2020-election. You can look up your poll site for the primary election, generate sample ballots for the local and Presidential elections, and read about the candidates.

President. Votes for Presidential candidates other than Joe Biden are to make a statement of your political values. Joe Biden already has enough Delegates to win the nomination.

Pete Buttigieg
Amy Klobuchar
Joseph R. Biden
Tulsi Gabbard
Bernie Sanders
Michael R. Bloomberg

Tom Steyer
Michael Bennet
Elizabeth Warren
Andrew Yang
Deval Patrick

Also **delegates to the National Convention** (you can see which candidates the delegates are pledged to on the ballot).

IMPORTANT! Representative in Congress - 12th Congressional District

Lauren Ashcraft
Peter Harrison
Carolyn B. Maloney (incumbent)
Suraj Patel

IMPORTANT! State Senator - 27th Senatorial District

Elizabeth G. Glass
Brad M. Hoylman (incumbent)

IMPORTANT! Member of the State Assembly - 73rd Assembly District

Cameron Alex Koffman
Dan Quart (incumbent)

Census reminder (if you haven't already taken the survey)

Manhattan needs you to be counted! The Census Bureau is mailing paper questionnaires to homes that have not yet responded. Please complete and return your form as soon as you receive it. If you prefer, you have the option of responding online at my2020census.gov or by phone. With so many people sheltering in places OTHER than Manhattan, if you can, please complete census forms using your Manhattan address. If you want to change your address you can resubmit your census form at my2020census.gov. Tap the “do not have census code” link below the login button. The census system usually removes duplicates, as long as all answers remain the same except the address. The final census numbers help determine federal aid to states and cities for the next 10 years--hospitals, schools, food aid, transit, etc.

New York City is sponsoring a contest for those who have completed the Census. If you win the contest, you'll receive a thank you call from Lin-Manuel Miranda or Mo Rocca. For details and contest rules at www1.nyc.gov/site/census/get-involved/count-on-new-york.page.

Thank you if you already have responded!

Special Enrollment Period for health insurance ends June 15

Special health insurance enrollment period ends on June 15. New Yorkers who do not have health insurance can apply for a health plan through the NY State of Health Marketplace nystateofhealth.ny.gov. If you become unemployed and lose your employer-sponsored health insurance benefits, you have 60 days to apply for your own health insurance through the marketplace.

Upcoming events

June 15 1pm

Air and the Virus with Prof. Linsey Marr

Dr. Linsey Marr, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, Virginia Tech, is one of the world's leading experts on airborne transmission of viruses. She's here to answer your questions about the air you're breathing — and how to lower your risk of breathing coronavirus. Register at timesevents.nytimes.com/livingwell0615.

Department of Education's Parent Engagement Events

Monday, June 15 6:30-7:30pm Chancellor's Town Hall with CEC 14

Tuesday, June 16 6-8pm, Parent Forum on Special Education

Wednesday, June 24 6:30-7:30pm, Chancellor's Town Hall

Monday, June 29 6:30-7:30pm, Chancellor's Town Hall

schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/admissions-engagement

Fill out this form surveygizmo.com/s3/5623164/Admissions-Feedback-Form to share your opinion and have your voice heard.

Deadline to register June 15

The Opportunity Music Project is taking their Summer Intensive camp online

They offer sliding scale scholarships, including 50 full tuition ones for low income NYC students ages 6-18. The project instructs students in violin, viola, cello, and double bass and runs from July 6 to August 3. Register at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwxXQ7azq1VC51_KFIXGIYiqGEEGkgP8wdP_js2U6qldlGQ/viewform.

June 15-July 9

Small Business Reopen and Rebound Series online

The New York Public Library designed this series with small businesses, entrepreneurs, and solo practitioners in mind. Learn about resources not only to reopen but also to come back stronger and better than before. Hear from a group of world-class experts in their respective fields of social media, public relations, innovation, leadership, communication. They will give timely, practical and actionable tips and tricks that cost little or no money, present ideas that you can put into practice immediately. Hosted by the NYPL Business Library. Register below (seats fill up quickly):

June 15 Dave Kerpen - Social Media Secrets to Stand Out from Your Competition

nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/15/webinar-social-media-secrets-stand-out-your-competition

June 16 Peter Shankman - Being Heard in a World That Keeps Getting Crazier

nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/16/webinar-being-heard-world-keeps-getting-crazier

June 18 Sandra Long - LinkedIn Visibility: 10 Ways to Get More Profile Views

nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/18/webinar-linkedin-visibility-10-ways-get-more-profile-views

June 25 Todd Cherches - Lead Yourself & Others in This "New Normal" & Turn Your Vision into Reality

nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/25/webinar-lead-yourself-others-new-normal-turn-your-vision-reality

July 9 Bryan Mattimore - Eureka! New & Innovative Ways to Promote Your Business in These Crazy

Times nypl.org/events/programs/2020/07/09/webinar-eureka-new-innovative-ways-promote-your-business-these-crazy

June 16 12pm

Webinar: Avoiding Coronavirus Scams

Scammers are professionals who know how to target us. By familiarizing yourself with the red flags of fraud, you can steer clear of con artists. Carol Kando-Pineda will discuss Coronavirus scams related to both the virus and its financial implications, the common tactics used in many scams, and FTC resources. Speaker Carol Kando-Pineda, is an attorney and now heads the Federal Trade Commission's outreach through public libraries. Hosted by the New York Public Library and presented by the FTC. Free. Register at eventbrite.com/e/webinar-avoiding-coronavirus-scams-tickets-107838212998. Bring your questions.

June 16 2pm

Webinar: City & State's Webinar Series: The Future of Transportation in New York Post COVID 19

As a result of COVID 19 and the enforcement of work from home policies for all non-essential businesses, ridership has plummeted across New York's mass transit systems as officials scramble to keep service running. Additionally, in early May, NYC opened up 40 miles of streets citywide. When we return to work, what will public transportation and our streets look like? **SPEAKERS:**

Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council; Phillip Eng, President, Long Island Railroad; Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation; Doug Lodder, Senior Vice President, General Manager, Boingo; Ian Woodrooffe, Senior Vice President of Business Development

Cubic Transportation Systems. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jdlwZsLHTKhAGix1Rcz1A.

June 16 2pm

Pandemic History from the Bottom Up: A Webinar with Oral Historians and Archivists

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer hosts a Webinar with Manhattan Borough Historian Rob Snyder, which will guide participants on how to conduct their own oral history interviews and archival projects that record the history of this pandemic. Other speakers are Oral historian Will Buie, Archivist Deidre Dinnigan, Mike Frisch and Christine Ridarsky, collaborators on a digital social media project to collect and share stories of life during the pandemic throughout New York State, and Savona Bailey-McClain and Nadia DeLane, who are working on a pandemic oral history project with Harlem young people. Register for the oral history Zoom at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PDeGAoFOQ9G5qxkqPqnDkw.

June 16 6pm

Why Fixing Democracy Is Easier Than You Think

What explains the gap between what We, the People want and what our elected leaders do? How can we fix our politics before it's too late? This is a virtual event. SPEAKERS: David Litt, former Obama speechwriter and author of *Democracy in One Book or Less: How It Works, Why It Doesn't, and Why Fixing It Is Easier Than You Think*, Valerie Jarrett, Senior Distinguished Fellow, University of Chicago Law School; former senior advisor to President Barack Obama. Register at brennancenter.org/events/why-fixing-democracy-easier-you-think.

June 17 7pm

New York City Reopens, Part 2: Test, Trace and Take Care (T3) - Tracking Down the Virus

Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Disease Control, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Ted Long, MD, MHS, Senior Vice President, Ambulatory Care, and Executive Director Test and Trace Corps, will join State Senator Krueger for the second of three virtual Town Halls about Reopening New York City. Topics of discussion will include the stages of pandemics, which stage we are currently in, an overview of the three components of the Test, Trace and Take Care program, how the program will be operationalized throughout the city, and the integral role of the T3 Program in containing the COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates. Speakers: Dr. Daskalakis oversees all infection-related public health programming at the NYC Department of Health, including the Bureaus of Communicable Diseases, and Immunization. Dr. Long is a practicing primary care physician and a faculty member in the Yale School of Medicine and the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care, where he teaches about health policy and administration. Attendees will be

able to submit questions through Facebook during the event but are strongly encouraged to submit them in advance when they register. Register at tinyurl.com/ReopeningPart2.

June 18 2pm

Webinar: Reserves to the Rescue? - Preserving Your Community's Physical and Financial Health

For co-op and condo owners and managers. With many associations experiencing higher than normal assessment delinquencies, concern about the short-term financial health of their communities is weighing heavily on boards and managers across the country. The Reserve Fund is a powerful financial resource that can be used to help an association survive a temporary cash flow disruption without sacrificing the future - but it must be done with caution and care. Join expert panelists for guidance on this important subject, including how the business judgment rule protects board decisions, how to preserve cash by reprioritizing expenses, how to reallocate cash borrowed from your reserves, how to take advantage of 'softer' vendor pricing to save money, and how to quickly restore borrowed reserve funds. Presented by The Cooperator. Register at

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4015919035016/WN_C1ynnOsNRxqD6CVQZrzwRQ

June 18 5pm

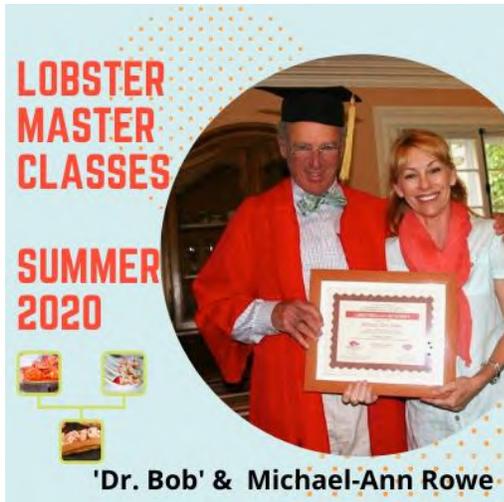
Town Hall on Reforming the Criminal Justice Agenda

Speakers: New York State Senator Liz Krueger, NYS Senator Jamaal Bailey, key architect of New York State's policing reform legislative agenda, NYS Senator Zellnor Myrie, criminal justice reform advocate, and Insha Rahman, the Director of Strategy and New Initiatives at the Vera Institute of Justice. Insha Rahman will frame the discussion and provide an overview of the following: systemic problems associated with policing; justice budgets, system accountability; and future advocacy efforts. Senators Bailey and Myrie will provide an overview of New York State's recent criminal justice reform legislative package, what they hope these new laws will accomplish, and additional advocacy required to continue to advance efforts to address racial injustice in our society. Attendees will be able to submit questions through Facebook during the event but are strongly encouraged to submit them in advance when you register. Register at tinyurl.com/virtualtownhall-justicereform.

June 18 6-7pm

Council Member Ben Kallos's Community Conversation Town Hall

CM Ben Kallos and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson will be discussing and taking questions on the City Budget, Rent and Housing, Resources for Seniors and Small Businesses. You must RSVP to participate by video conference or teleconference RSVP at benkallos.com/event/community-conversation-and-townhall-speaker-corey-johnson. Skip the RSVP and watch the stream at Facebook.com/BenKallos/live. Questions must be submitted with RSVP or by email to questions@benkallos.com. RSVP at BenKallos.com/events.



June 18 6:30pm

Lobster Master Classes online

Michael-Ann Rowe, the Fishionista®, and 'Dr. Bob' Bayer will share many fascinating facts about lobster: how lobsters grow, lifecycle, lobster sex, new and hardshell, lobster seasons, how-to buy and store lobster, and Michael-Ann will demonstrate the Luke's Lobster Roll recipe.

Register for the free Zoom Master Class #1 on **June 18** at bit.ly/2XRaWVS. Bob is a scientist, innovator and author, and he has patented a number of lobster related products. He's also former Director of the Lobster Institute of Maine. Michael-Ann is a graduate of Lobster Lovers Academy. She is a seafood educator and a digital content creator. She launched Lobster101 (NYC), and the Canadian Oyster

Festival (NYC). Luke's Lobster and the Lobster Council of Canada are co-sponsors of this event. Luke's Lobster is providing the lobster bundles. If you want to follow along with the recipe, or break down a lobster with Michael-Ann and 'Dr. Bob', you can order lobster and the bundles from Luke's Lobster ahead of time at shop.lukeslobster.com/collections/shop-lukes *WHEN YOU SIGN UP FOR EMAILS YOU GET 10% off first order. Save the date for Master Class #2: **June 30** at 6:30pm, register at <https://bit.ly/2AoElhe>.

June 18 8pm

Think you know Grand Central? Grand Central Virtual Trivia Night!

Put that knowledge to the test. CBS2 NY's own Lonnie Quinn will host an old-fashioned trivia game via live stream from our official Facebook feed facebook.com/GrandCentralTerminal. All you need to do: study up, then show up on Grand Central Terminal's Facebook Live facebook.com/GrandCentralTerminal/posts/10158412425268147. There will be 20 questions, plus bonus questions, answers, banter, and other fun trivia hijinks with Lonnie! The prize is bragging rights for getting the most answers correct. Answer questions by typing your guesses into the Facebook Live comment box in real time. Or download the blank answer form mcusercontent.com/6e365bcf4e0177e583ac55eb4/files/d6cbb7f5-fc30-4323-936b-99677a4960d6/GCT_Trivia_AnswerSheet_2_.pdf! Get the edge: All question material comes from the New York Transit Museum's GCT centennial project, gcthistory.com. Do your homework!

June 19 7:30pm

Piano on Park presents Louis Arques - Clarinet

An intimate journey through Louis Arques favorite musical universes. From the inner poetry of Baroque music to the intense cries of Contemporary music, to sunny rhythms of Brazilian Choro and to the soul of Jazz. pianoonpark.com For full schedule see pianoonpark.com/concerts.

The MHNA Discount Program

Please be prepared to show proof of membership when you ask for a discount.

New

Local Mobile Marketing Solutions, www.localmobiletoday.com, 646-484-9033. Market your business through SMS/text messaging. Special rates starting at \$39/mo, and 30 days free. [Click here to schedule](#) your SMS/text message marketing call to get all your questions answered!

[Restaurant and Food Discounts](#)

[General Discounts](#)

Murray Hill (and Kips Bay) in the news



Peaceful protest on June 7 going down Lexington Avenue at 36th Street [from the editor's window]

The first two weeks in June marked protests in Murray Hill

From May 31 through the first two weeks in June there have been daily protests and protest marches at various places in all boroughs of NYC. Some of the marches have come through Murray Hill. The protests were triggered by the killing of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, on May 25, 2020 at the hands of a policeman in Minneapolis. As the protests spread around the world, the scope broadened to a call for better policing and racial justice. During the first two days of protests there were also people who vandalized and looted stores all around the city. Acts of vandalism and looting occurred in Midtown, including Murray Hill. Targeted were stores, including Macy's, clothing stores, drug stores, liquor stores, phone stores, among others. We now see many stores boarded up, either as a precautionary measure, or because the windows were broken. To gain better control of the streets, a curfew was imposed from June 1 for 5 days. No vehicle traffic was allowed below 95th Street. Essential workers did not have to abide by the curfew.

The protests have had an impact on our laws in New York State and City. See the legislation section below for details.

And if you noticed that the street trash bins are missing, they were removed for safety reasons during the protests, as they had been used to set fires. They should be back in place by next week. In the meantime, trash has been piling up on the sidewalks, as there is no place to put it. I saw a neat pile of trash a few days ago, right where the trash bin used to be.



Winfield-Flynn Wines & Spirits on 3rd Avenue at 37th Street, windows boarded up, but open on June 10.

Traffic and transportation

Alternate Side Parking Regulations will be suspended through Sunday, June 21.

If you must use public transit, wear a mask and limit your speaking around others. Practice social distancing (6') as much as possible. Sanitize or wash your hands with soap and water at the beginning and end of your trip. Try to avoid subways and buses during rush hours.

[14th Street Busway Will Be Made Permanent, Mayor Says](#)

June 8, 2020, *patch.com*, by Anna Quinn

14th Street Busway (3rd to 8th Avenue) will be made permanent, including ban on most private cars. The busway has shortened travel times by over 5 minutes (going eastbound), less westbound, during peak hours...Residents who attended the January meeting where the Department of Transportation shared the results said the design of the busway has caused bottlenecking on side streets like University Place, more noise and congestion on West 12th and 13th streets and problems with taxis and for-hire-vehicles not knowing that they can pick up and drop off on the corridor. [Editor's note: If it is necessary to drive on 14th Street for a pick up or drop off, cars must exit at the nearest right turn. [Source: Grand Central Partnership email of 6/11/2020, news@gcp]

Related: City Plans New Busway for Fifth Avenue

This week, Mayor de Blasio announced that the city plans to expand and improve bus service by adding 20 new miles of busways and bus lanes. One of the new busways is planned for 5th Avenue between 34th and 57th Streets. DOT plans to implement the new busway by the end of this year.

[MTA Action Plan For a Safe Return](#)

MTA 13-Point Action Plan for a Safe Return...increased service, unprecedented cleaning & disinfecting, mandatory face coverings, enhanced safety & security [including platform controllers, wayfinders and station personnel to direct and assist with crowd control], nation-leading employee safety initiatives, innovative cleaning solutions, hand sanitizer, floor markings, directional arrows and new signage, staggered business hours, 2 million mask contribution from State & City, contactless payments, new partnerships & technology to make our system safer, data dashboard...buses will go to 75% service in Manhattan with rear-door boarding (and free)...If you can, travel during off-peak hours, after 9am and before 3pm.

The Governor has asked that commuters unsatisfied with bus or subway service during reopening call 511 with complaints.

Schools

[Here's What Reopening NYC Schools Could Look Like This Fall, According To A Memo From Carranza](#)

June 9, 2020, *patch.com*, by Chalkbeat, Christina Veiga, Alex Zimmerman, and Reema Amin
[The NYC schools chancellor] Carranza says schools must consider several factors for reopening: health and safety, social-emotional and mental health, blended learning options, staggered opening dates and split schedules, limiting movement in buildings, more cleaning, busing, and meals — all while planning for a September opening date...Mayor Bill de Blasio has launched a 45-member panel to advise him on how to reopen school buildings. Carranza said the education department will consult parents, students, and staff on its reopening plans. Read full letter docs.google.com/document/d/1NaFfOKrw5dVvsl4fnwbZ892cs_c3LUMCENKhDD5cGVk/edit.

DOE website schools.nyc.gov.

[Activists demand removing the NYPD from schools. De Blasio plans to give school police more money](#)

June 4, 2020, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Alex Zimmerman
School safety agents, who are unarmed and stationed in every school, play a variety of roles: greeting and signing in visitors to school buildings, deploying metal detectors at some schools, responding to fights, and even issuing arrests and summonses. In many cases, they're called to respond to student mental health crises.

Budget & taxes

[NYC Council leaders back push to cut \\$1B from police budget](#)

June 12, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Tal Axelrod
New York City leaders Friday came out in support of a plan to cut \$1 billion from the city's police budget as protests across the country continue against systemic racism and police use of force...The leaders said they would achieve the goal by "reducing uniform headcount through attrition, cutting overtime, shifting responsibilities away from the [New York Police Department], finding efficiencies and savings in OTPS spending, and lowering associated fringe expenses."...Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch slammed the council's statement, saying it would be responsible for every new crime victim.

Related: The Mayor's proposed 2021 budget is \$89.3 billion, with NYPD receiving \$6 billion

[Source Council Member Keith Powers' email of 6/8/2020]

This budget comes at a time when New York City is facing deficits that require all agencies to reduce spending. The proposed budget makes nearly \$2 billion in cuts to housing, education, parks, and social services, yet the Mayor's proposed budget cut to NYPD is only 0.31%. New Yorkers are correct to ask questions about our priorities.

Related: [‘Defund the NYPD’? What’s Really in the New York City Police Department Budget](#)

June 9, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

Government, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

Signed State legislation – new laws

[Signing Police Reforms, Cuomo Orders More Changes On Local Level](#)

June 12, 2020, *nystateofpolitics.com*, by Nick Reisman

6/5/2020 **Cuomo: the "Say Their Name" reform agenda** following the murder of George Floyd and an ongoing pattern of police brutality against black communities. The four cornerstones of the agenda are: transparency of prior disciplinary records of law enforcement officers; banning chokeholds by law enforcement officers; prohibiting false race-based 9-1-1 reports and making them a crime; and designating the Attorney General as an independent prosecutor for matters relating to the deaths of unarmed civilians caused by law enforcement.

Gov. Cuomo issued an executive order to Reinvent and Modernize Police

Strategies and Programs. This would be the responsibility of local police agencies. Each police agency's reform plan must address policies, procedures, practices and deployment, including, but not limited to use of force. They must engage stakeholders in an open public process, and the local government must certify the plan by April 1, 2021. Police forces must adopt a plan by April 1, 2021 to be eligible for future state funding and certify that they have:

6/12/2020, **The Governor signed a package of police reform legislation passed by the Senate and Assembly earlier this week.** These landmark policing reforms will help reduce inequality in policing and reimagine the state's criminal justice system. The reforms include:

Repealing 50-a (S.8496/A.10611), Provides transparency for prior disciplinary records of law enforcement officers by repealing section 50-a of the civil rights law. This repeal would subject these records to FOIL (Freedom of Information Law), as are all other records kept by public agencies, while protecting the sensitive personal contact and health information of these officers.

Banning Chokeholds (S.6670-B/ A.6144), “The Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act” In 1993, the New York City Police Department completely banned its officers from using chokeholds, but the ban has not prevented police officers from using this method to restrain individuals. This new law creates criminal penalties when a police officer or peace officer uses a chokehold or similar restraint and causes serious physical injury or death.

Prohibiting Race-Based 911 Calls (S.8492/A.1531): Recent years have shown a number of frivolous and false calls to 911 based on the callers' personal discomfort with other people and not for

any particular threat. This new law makes it a civil rights violation to call 911 to report a non-emergency incident involving a member of a protected class without reason to suspect a crime or an imminent threat.

Appointing Attorney General as Independent Prosecutor for Police Involved

Deaths (S.2574-C/A.1601): This new law establishes an Office of Special Investigation within the Office of the Attorney General to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute cases where the death of a person follows an encounter with a law enforcement officer.

Pending State legislation

S2575-A/Bailey: Requires a law enforcement officer or peace officer who discharges his or her weapon under circumstances where a person could be struck by a bullet to immediately report the incident.

Senate Bill S.3253B: This legislation will clarify that a person not under arrest or in police custody has the right to record police activity and to maintain custody and control of that recording, and of any property or instruments used to record police activities.

S3595/Parker: Establishes an independent state inspector general for law enforcement and agencies involved in intelligence gathering.

S7703/Hoylman: Expands the functions of the chief administrator of the courts to include the compilation of certain data with respect to ethnicity, race, disability, veteran status, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation by specific jurisdiction and submit an annual report of his or her findings.

Senate Bill S.1830C: This legislation, the Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act, will require courts to compile and publish racial and other demographic data of all low-level offenses, including misdemeanors and violations. The bill also requires police departments to submit annual reports on arrest-related deaths to the Department of Criminal Justice Services and to the Governor and the Legislature.

Senate Bill S.6601A: This legislation will amend the Civil Rights Law by adding a new section that affirms New Yorkers' right to medical and mental health attention while in custody.

Senate Bill S.8493: This legislation, the New York State Police Body-Worn Cameras Program, will direct the Division of State Police to provide all State police officers with body-worn cameras that are to be used any time an officer conducts a patrol and prescribes mandated situations when the camera is to be turned on and recording.

Senate Bill S.2575B: This legislation will require state and local law enforcement officers, as well as peace officers, to report, within six hours, when they discharge their weapon where a person could have been struck, whether they were on or off duty.

Proposed City Council legislation

The NY City Council is asking Mayor de Blasio to move authority to issue Press Passes out of the NYPD and to a neutral agency with limited political influence.

Intro. 760 requires the NYPD to create a tool, known as an **Early Intervention System (EIS)**, to identify problematic officers that are in need of enhanced training to perform their job and bad policing patterns.

Intro. 536, would further prevent the use of maneuvers like chokeholds and neck restraints.

Right to Peaceful Protest (sponsored by Keith Powers)

Bill to ban officers from covering their badge numbers from the public

Bill to reaffirm the people's right to record police activity in public places

Int. No. 1961-A bill to require reporting on the NYC contact tracing efforts to help manage the spread of the virus. (takes effect immediately)

Int. No. 1954-A, Council Member Keith Powers, require the Department and Correctional Health Services to make publicly available a weekly report related to the outbreak of COVID-19 in city jails.

Int. No. 1956-A, Council Member Keith Powers, would create a local conditional release commission having the authority to release [from jail] certain sentenced individuals once they had served a portion of their sentence.

Resolution No. 1062 calls for EMS personnel to be equally compensated and have their salaries be comparable to New York City firefighters and police officers.

Related: [For Our City: Reforming and Rebuilding](#)

June 7, 2020, *medium.com*, by New York City Council Member Keith Powers

6/11/2020 **Report from Gov. Cuomo's COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force** with initial recommendations to reimagine New York's approach to services for domestic violence survivors. The recommendations were accepted by Gov. Cuomo and call for overhauling and reimagining a 40-year-old system to meet survivors where they are and to empower them to have the maximum control of their future. Full report governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/DVTF-Report-FINAL.pdf.

6/8/2020 **The Governor signed legislation (S.8189/A.10270) banning price gouging** of personal protective equipment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been countless instances of egregious price gouging, particularly of critical medical supplies - such as masks and hand sanitizer - that are desperately needed by our hospitals and other health care facilities. This legislation will help ensure access to these critical supplies for health care workers and the general public.

Federal level

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's webpage Combating Police Violence
maloney.house.gov/issues/combating-police-violence

Public service announcements

For COVID updates from NYC in English, text 'COVID' to 692-692.

New Yorkers can now text 911 - it's free and works through short message service (SMS).

If you received your Economic Impact Payment/stimulus check (EIP) as a card, call 1-800-240-8100 to activate it. You will be asked to input your Card Number, last 6-digits of your social security number and the 3-digit security code from the back of your Card. You could be asked to further validate your identity by providing, at minimum, your name and address or answer identity verification questions. In a few instances, the first name of one payee is linked to the last name of a second payee on the Card. For mismatched names, the payee with the first name on the first line must activate the Card and/or validate identity to continue activation. You will also be asked to create a 4-digit PIN required for ATM transactions and automated assistance and to hear your balance. For your Account security, do not use personal information as your PIN. For Cards with more than one name, only the primary Cardholder (listed first on the Card) may activate the Card. FAQs eipcard.com/faq.

Hurricane season 2020 and COVID-19

June 1, 2020, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Colleen Tressler, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

June 1 is the official start of hurricane season...make a plan to deal with weather emergencies...what you need know if you have to go to a shelter cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/public-disaster-shelter-during-covid.html...It's one thing to prepare your family, pets, and property for extreme weather situations. It's another to protect your personal information and finances...Make a Plan...Check your insurance...Prepare your home...Plan for your pets...Choose an out-of-town contact...Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area...Find out if your local public shelter is open...Organize Your Finances...Take advantage of technology...Buy a lockable, fireproof file box...Rent a safe deposit box...Update your information...knowing how to recognize and avoid common scams...Getting Back on Your Feet Financially...Contacting Your Insurance Company...Managing Money...Managing Credit...Replacing Damaged or Lost Documents...USA.gov — For questions about government services, Call: 1-844-USA-GOV1 (1-844-872-4681), Chat usa.gov/chat, usa.gov/how-to-use. Find the attorney general who represents you naag.org/naag/attorneys-general/whos-my-ag.php.

COVID scams

IRS Warns of New Tax and Coronavirus Payment Scams

June 8, 2020, *cpapracticeadvisor.com*

Criminals are continuing to use the COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments as cover for schemes to steal personal information and money. Scams related to COVID-19 are not limited to stealing EIPs from taxpayers, however...scams related to the organized selling of fake at-home test kits, offers to sell fake cures, vaccines, pills and advice on unproven treatments for COVID-19. Other scams purport to sell large quantities of medical supplies through the creation of fake shops, websites, social media accounts and email addresses where the criminal fails to deliver promised supplies after receiving funds...Other COVID-19 related scams involve setting up fake charities soliciting donations for individuals, groups and areas affected by the disease. Some criminals are offering opportunities to invest early in companies working on a vaccine...tremendous increase in phishing schemes utilizing emails, letters, texts and links. These phishing schemes are using keywords such as "Corona Virus," "COVID-19", and "Stimulus" in varying ways. Coronavirus-related (COVID-19) scams should be reported to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or submitted through the NCDF Web Complaint Form <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>...taxpayers...who receive unsolicited emails or social media attempts to gather information that appear to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), should forward it to phishing@irs.gov. Taxpayers are encouraged not to engage potential scammers online or on the phone.

Is a scammer getting unemployment benefits in your name?

June 3, 2020, by Seena Gressin, Attorney, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC

In a large-scale scam erupting in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, imposters are filing claims for unemployment benefits, using the names and personal information of people who have not filed claims. People learn about the fraud when they get a notice from their state unemployment benefits office or their employer about their supposed application for benefits...Here are steps that can help you protect your finances and your credit: Report the fraud to your employer. Keep a record of who you spoke with and when. Report the fraud to your state unemployment benefits agency. Visit IdentityTheft.gov to report the fraud to the FTC and get help with the next important recovery steps. Review your credit reports often...The unemployment payments usually are deposited to accounts the imposters control. But sometimes payments get sent to the real person's account, instead. If this happens to you, the imposters may call, text, or email to try to get you to send some or all of the money to them. This a money mule scam and participating in one could cause you more difficulties. If you get benefits you never applied for, report it to your state unemployment agency and ask for instructions.

Stories we are following

New York City Will Test Its Sewage For Coronavirus

June 5, 2020, *patch.com* , by Anna Quinn

The city's Department of Environmental Protection has started collecting samples from all 14 of its wastewater facilities as a new way to track the coronavirus in New York City, Manhattan Borough

President Gale Brewer, whose Solid Waste Advisory Board suggested the practice, announced this week. The samples will be tested for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, through a method that experts say could track the spread of the virus in hundreds of thousands of people at a time.

(opinion) [Roadmap to Responsibly Reopen America](#)

Professor Paul Romer (CAS, Law), winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics, has created a plan, which calls for a "test and isolate" strategy that balances economics, ethics, and public health. Until a vaccine is developed and deployed, the simplest and safest path to a re-opened economy is national testing that tests everyone in the U.S. once every two weeks and isolates all those who test positive...Start testing the essential workers who are already on the job...Begin with healthcare and other frontline workers who are most likely to be infected, so we keep one infected worker from spreading the virus to colleagues...start testing other essential workers... Isolate anyone who tests positive; test their family members and close colleagues...Extend the tests to those who we want to urgently return to work...offer the tests to everyone.

(opinion) [A better way to curb police brutality](#)

June 12, 2020, *thehill.com*, by Carolyn Heinrich

Pervasive enduring racism is one revolting key factor as to why excessive violence falls on communities of color. Yet if we want to be effective in reforming the police and improving community relations, we will have to address a broader range of the root causes of excessive use of force...During their careers, police officers are regularly at risk for exposure to psychological trauma that builds cumulatively and has neurobiological effects...Like with public school teachers, we demand more from police officers in their roles without acknowledging the further stress this places on them, both psychological and physical, and without the resources or programs for their success and health in fulfilling these duties...Police brutality is a scourge of the profession, but it also reflects a blight of our society and a failure to treat human suffering.

Curfew FAQ sheet: www1.nyc.gov/assets/counseltothemayor/downloads/Curfew-FAQ.pdf

[City of New York and Airbnb Reach Settlement Agreement](#)

June 12, 2020, Source: Mayor de Blasio Press Release, pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov

NEW YORK—Mayor de Blasio and Airbnb announced today that Airbnb and the City of New York have reached a settlement agreement, establishing a new framework for the City's local law that requires short-term rental platforms to share information about their listings. Under this agreement, Airbnb will dismiss its federal lawsuit against the City of New York, and the New York City Council will introduce an updated local law. "Finally, we'll have the critical information we need to preserve affordable housing and keep our communities protected," said Mayor Bill de Blasio..."With this agreement, the City will have a powerful tool to detect those who hide behind fake accounts and address those who take housing away from New Yorkers," said Christian Klossner, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement (OSE)...Under this updated local law, short-term rental platforms would share information with the City on a quarterly basis. The report would include all listings that generate five or more nights of bookings per quarter, so long as the listing offers an entire home or allows three or more guests to stay at one time...The settlement is premised on the amendment of the current local law governing short-term rental reporting to reflect the above reporting framework.

[Amazon's New Competitive Advantage: Putting Its Own Products First](#)

June 6, 2020, *propublica.org*, by Renee Dudley

Brands have long been able to bid for the premier slot at the top left of Amazon's listings, but during the pandemic the online retailer has begun using this position for its private-label items, raising antitrust concerns. When contacting your representative, 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.

Our government representatives

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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