

# Information that may be of interest...

## October 5, 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](http://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](http://www.murrayhillnyc.org), scroll down the Also Happening column.

## Kudos!

### And the winners of the MURRAY HILL SCAVENGER HUNT contest are.....

First Prize: DAVRI ZANOEDDIN (one-night stay at the Shelburne Hotel & Suites by Affinia)  
Second prize: MELISSA COHEN (\$50 Gift Certificate to a local restaurant of her choice)

Ten complete and correct entries were received, and all names were put into a hat from which Davri's and Melissa's names were drawn. CONGRATULATIONS DAVRI AND MELISSA, and to all who participated.

The Murray Hill Scavenger Hunt was organized by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's Preservation & Design Committee.

## Traffic notice

### NYC DOT will implement safety improvements on 2nd Ave. between 34<sup>th</sup> & 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

Implementation starts in October 2020:

- Install bicycle lane along the east curb between E. 43rd St. and E. 34th St. that is:
  - Parking protected during off-peak hours, 8pm-3pm
  - Buffered during peak hours, 3pm-8pm (five lanes maintained)
- Install dedicated double left turn lanes and turn signal phase at 42nd, 36th, and 34th Sts.
- Install painted pedestrian islands at 42nd and 36th Sts.
- Close the FDR Dr. Service Rd. slip lane at 34th St.

[Flyer](#)

## NYC's reopening

### **Increasing covid-19 infection rates in specific zip codes in Brooklyn and Queens are causing concern.**

The Mayor wants to close public and private schools and businesses for 2 weeks in hotspots that have an infection rate of greater than 3%. This would require State approval.

**Related:** [De Blasio plans to close 100 NYC public schools in coronavirus hot spots](#)

Oct 4, 2020, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Reema Amin and Alex Zimmerman

New York City is in Phase 4 of the coronavirus reopening. High risk activities with gatherings of people are being phased in slowly and cautiously. Indoor activities pose a higher risk than outdoor activities.

See [murrayhillnyc.org](#) for additional COVID-19 information, including

[Reopening](#)

[Neighborhood houses of worship, museums, educational and cultural institutions](#)

[Neighborhood restaurants, food & spirits that are open for delivery & pickup](#)

[Neighborhood retail, health care \(including pets\) & services that are open](#)

and more.

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### **All NYC public schools were reopened by October 1.**

If clusters (more than 1 person) of positive covid cases occur in a school it may be temporarily closed.

**Daily COVID Case Map** [\[schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/daily-covid-case-map\]\(https://schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/daily-covid-case-map\)](#)

This map shows all known cases of COVID-19 at New York City public schools. It is updated Sunday through Friday at 5:30pm.

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**Indoor dining began on September 30**, at 25% capacity, with social distancing, temperature checks, and masks must be worn except when seated. Restaurants must have enhanced ventilation systems. One person at the table must provide contact information in case it is needed for test and trace. Restaurants can expand to 50% capacity starting November 1, as long as the city's coronavirus infection rate stays below 2%. Interim guidance: [\[governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYC\\\_Indoor\\\_Food\\\_Services\\\_Detailed\\\_Guidance.pdf\]\(https://governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYC\_Indoor\_Food\_Services\_Detailed\_Guidance.pdf\)](#).

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If the infection rate does not increase, restaurants may be permitted to go to 50% capacity for indoor dining by November 1.

Information about Restaurant Reopening is also available at [www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide](http://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide) or call the Small Business Services hotline at 888-SBS-4NYC.

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## **Outdoor dining is now permanent.**

**New York City regulations must be followed regarding heaters and enclosed spaces.**

### **Operational guidance for indoor and outdoor Restaurant Reopening**

[www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide](http://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide) or call the SBS hotline at 888-SBS-4NYC.

#### **[Summary courtesy of State Senator Liz Krueger]**

**Adjacent Properties:** The City will allow restaurants to expand seating to the frontage of adjacent properties, as long as the adjacent property owners formally agree to the use of the space for a specified period of time and commit not to charge a fee for its use. The City will work with the State Liquor Authority on any requirements associated with extending alcohol service to the expanded seating in front of adjacent properties. In early October, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will issue a template agreement and provide instructions on how to file the agreements. Adjacent properties may not be used prior to the release of official instructions and formal agreements.

**Heating:** As cooler weather arrives, the City will allow restaurants to incorporate heating elements into their outdoor dining setups. Electrical heaters will be allowed on both sidewalk and roadway. Propane and natural gas heaters will be allowed on sidewalks only; they will remain prohibited in roadway seating. Propane will require a permit from FDNY and compliance with FDNY regulations for outdoor use, handling and secure outdoor tank storage overnight. Official guidance on what will be considered approved installation and use of heating elements will be released before the end of September, and restaurants are prohibited from installing heating elements until guidelines are released and followed.

**Tents:** Restaurants will also be permitted to use tent enclosures to keep diners warm. In partial tent enclosures, at least 50% of the tent's side wall surface area must remain open and electrical heaters are allowed. In full tent enclosures, the tent's side walls may be closed but occupancy limitations will be capped at 25% of capacity, and indoor dining guidelines must be followed; electrical heaters will also be allowed. Enclosed structures, such as plastic domes, will be allowed for individual parties and must have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation.

**Roadway Safety:** As the program's duration will now continue through the winter months, and winter weather creates potential for inclement weather to impact road conditions, the City will engage the restaurant industry and other stakeholders to develop additional safety features to further strengthen roadway barriers. To ensure timely implementation, the City will require restaurant owners to comply with new safety features by November 15, 2020. In addition, significant snow events may necessitate the temporary removal of some barriers from the roadway.

The City will work with the City Council to make the regulatory changes necessary to make the program permanent.

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October 15 deadline

**The registration period for the CARES Act’s “Economic Impact Payments” of \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples, and \$500 for each child)** closes 10/15 for these categories of taxpayers, who do not normally file returns: Social Security retirement, survivor, disability or Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, or Supplemental Security Income or Veterans Affairs benefit recipients who have qualifying children and did not file a return in 2018 or 2019 OR otherwise did not supply information via the nonfilers tool on the IRS website. If you haven’t already done so, submit your information on the nonfilers tool [irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here). Those who didn’t receive payments or who don’t submit the information by 10/15, may claim the \$1,200 as a tax credit next year on the 2020 federal income tax return.

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**[Governor Cuomo Announces Moratorium on COVID-Related Residential Evictions Will Be Extended Until January 1, 2021](#)**

Press release, Gov. Cuomo's office, 9/28/2020

the State's Tenant Safe Harbor Act will be expanded until January 1, 2021 to protect additional residential tenants from eviction if they are suffering financial hardship during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Executive Order extends the protections of the Tenant Safe Harbor Act to eviction warrants that existed prior to the start of the pandemic.

**Gov. Cuomo signed an Executive Order that extends the moratorium on commercial evictions until October 20th**, in recognition of the financial toll the pandemic has taken on business owners, including retail establishments and restaurants.  
Gov. Cuomo's executive order: [governor.ny.gov/news/no-20264-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency](https://governor.ny.gov/news/no-20264-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency).

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**IMPORTANT: There is still no cure or vaccine for COVID-19. To prevent the spread of COVID-19:**

- wear face coverings when you are with people who are not in the same household
- maintain distance (6 feet between people who are not in the same household)
- practice good hand hygiene
- stay home if sick

Gatherings are limited to 50 people. Religious gatherings are limited to 50% of capacity.

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## All New Yorkers can get tested for coronavirus.

Sites run by New York State are free [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you). You can also check with your doctor, pharmacies and walk-in urgent care to find out if they do testing and if there will be charges. NYC testing sites: [www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page).

### For Murray Hill/Kips Bay

**Bellevue**, no appointment necessary, but there may be long lines. Be sure that they set up your CareMount patient portal correctly so that you can get your results. Test results usually come back in 1-2 days. If you don't get your results timely, call and ask to speak with a clinician; they can check your file.

**Free rapid COVID-19 virus test at multiple COVID Express sites** are available throughout the city by appointment. Test results will be available within 24 hours or less of your visit. This means that most patients will receive their test results on the same day as their visit. COVID-19 tests performed at COVID Express sites will be free to all New Yorkers. The nearest site is in Chelsea at 303 9th Avenue. [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page). Appointment slots are difficult to get.

Walk-in urgent care offices, pharmacies and your personal doctor also may do COVID-19 testing, but they may require an appointment, co-pay, and the wait may be long for results.

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### [COVID Alert NY - a new app for your phone](#)

COVID Alert NY is the official free exposure notification app created by the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple. It is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. The app uses Bluetooth technology—not location data—to quickly alert users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Download the app at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny). Knowing about a potential exposure allows you to self-quarantine immediately, contact your doctor, get tested and reduce the potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. Your data is kept anonymous and is not identifiable to any individual. Learn more about the app's expert-vetted security and privacy at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covidalert-privacy](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covidalert-privacy). The more people who download COVID Alert NY, the more effective it will be. The free mobile app—available to anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or attends college in New York or New Jersey—are available for download from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. COVID Alert NY is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole. Learn more and download at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny).

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**FDA banned (unsafe or ineffective) hand sanitizers** [fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products)

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## Policing

[Source: State Senator Brad Hoylman's email *Thursday Community Update: Onward to October, October 1, 2020*] **We've seen an unwillingness from a number of NYPD officers to wear masks** when on duty. That's a problem. It undermines a critical public health protection, ignores the Governor's Executive Order on the issue, and delegitimizes all of the other work our branches of government are doing to keep New Yorkers safe. Many of you have written to me on this issue, and my daughters even brought it up to me on a recent walk through Greenwich Village. That's why I wrote this [letter to NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea](#) urging him to immediately enforce a clear face covering requirement for all officers.

**Related: [Maskless Cops Outrage New Yorkers, Politician Says](#)**

September 29, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Midtown State Sen. Brad Hoylman said his office is getting growing numbers of complaints about NYPD officers not wearing face masks...even amid an alarming uptick of COVID-19 cases in parts of the city. One site of particular concern has been the NYPD's Hell's Kitchen tow pound on 12th Avenue and West 38th Street, where a number of constituents have reported inconsistent mask-wearing among both staff and civilians...Elected officials including Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio have taken note of the trend, calling on officers to do a better job masking up...Hoylman said the trend has been especially noticeable amid ongoing protests against police violence. "The police presence in parts of my district is pretty heavy as protests continue," he said. "I see more protesters wearing masks than I see [among] the police who are surveilling them."

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## Grants, loans and other benefits for small businesses

10/3/2020 **Empire State Digital**, a new initiative accelerating New York State-based small businesses' ability to grow their online presence. Partners Shopify, Square, Clearbanc, and Etsy will offer specialized solutions such as education, free resources, marketing support, and discounted pricing. Empire State Digital's resource partners will offer additional services such as hands-on assistance, training and counseling. Empire State Digital website <https://esd.ny.gov/empire-state-digital>.

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**Apply now**

**Citizens Committee for NYC Neighborhood Business Grants**

These grants of \$5,000 - \$10,000 support small businesses. Application information and eligibility [faforms.com/4842203?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=23bdc41b-575b-4fc0-9503-91c4772a0367](https://faforms.com/4842203?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=23bdc41b-575b-4fc0-9503-91c4772a0367). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

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## Investing in Black Entrepreneurs

The Mayor announced new commitments to further invest in Black entrepreneurs in all five boroughs. The BE NYC initiative is a first-of-its-kind model, which aims to increase the number of Black-owned businesses in New York City with a focus on growing businesses in high-growth industries. As part of the City's commitment to close the racial wealth gap and support Black-owned businesses, the Department of Small Business Services is releasing the landmark Black entrepreneurship report and using its partnerships to launch four new programs for Black business owners. Learn more at [www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/black-entrepreneurs-nyc.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/black-entrepreneurs-nyc.page).

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## Job opportunities, volunteering and internships

### 10/3/2020 **NYU Langone Health Center is recruiting adults age 18+ to participate in a COVID-19 vaccine trial**

Especially those who are more likely to be exposed and vulnerable, including people with underlying medical conditions, seniors, those who could be exposed in their workplace (including elder-care facility residents or workers, and jail or prison workers) and Black, Latinx and Native American adults. Sign up at NYU Langone's online registry at [openredcap.nyumc.org/apps/redcap/surveys/index.php?s=9N4M7XJX9E](https://openredcap.nyumc.org/apps/redcap/surveys/index.php?s=9N4M7XJX9E). For more information about COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials in general, visit [coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org](https://coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org).

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### 10/3/2020 **[For students of color: Emma Bowen Foundation Internship Program at leading media & tech companies](#)**

The Emma Bowen Foundation promotes a more diverse industry by recruiting promising students of color and placing them in multi-year paid internships at some of the nation's leading media and tech companies. These three tracks highlight the many areas in which Fellows will intern. Content (broadcast and online journalism, production, social media, digital media, etc.), Business (finance, sales, human resources, marketing, public relations etc.), Innovation (computer science, engineering, data science, information technology, software development, etc.). Whether you're interested in being a producer, a journalist, a web developer, an engineer, a business executive, a PR agent, a sales representative, or in any other career in media or tech, the Emma Bowen Internship will help you get your start. Hear more about EBF from previous fellows, alumni, and partners at [emmabowenfoundation.com/voices](https://emmabowenfoundation.com/voices).

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### **The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is still hiring temporary employees to assist with disaster relief efforts during these unprecedented times.**

The positions include:

- Call Center Customer Service Representative
  - Document Preparation/Legal Review/Loan Closings
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- Loan Processing/Credit Analysis/Mortgage Underwriting
- Program Support

Apply today at [sba.gov/page/disaster-response-jobs-sba](https://sba.gov/page/disaster-response-jobs-sba).

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## Elections & voting

### Register to vote! The deadline is October 9.

Register online or find out the different ways to register at [vote.nyc/page/register-vote](https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote). You will need a valid ID from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles to register online.

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### The New York City Board of Elections created a portal to request and track absentee ballots online

NYC Board of Elections website: [vote.nyc](https://vote.nyc)

Telephone: 1-866-Vote-NYC (1-866-868-3692) or TTY-212-487-5496

#### REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

October 27, 2020 is the last day to request an absentee ballot by any means other than in person.

Registered voters who live in the five boroughs can now request an absentee ballot if they are concerned about COVID [vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting](https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting). You have to enter your name exactly as it appears on your voting registration. This page also lists other ways of applying for an absentee ballot.

To track your ballot use the link “To Apply for a Ballot > Online”

Absentee ballots are being sent on a rolling basis.

#### THE ABSENTEE BALLOT PACKAGE

- You will receive an **absentee ballot** with the heading “Official Absentee Military Ballot.” This is the correct ballot to use. Do not put any stray marks on the ballot, which may prevent it from being scanned properly.
  - Two envelopes are included with the ballot.
    - The envelope marked **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope** should have your correct name and address on it.  
IMPORTANT. If the name and address are *not* correct, notify the Board of Elections and request a new absentee ballot. **DO NOT USE AN INCORRECT ENVELOPE.** Hang on to the ballot and envelope that is addressed to the Board of Elections (just in case the BOE only sends the corrected envelope). Here are emails for the BOE
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[Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc](mailto:Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc) or

- Return envelope with the Board of Elections address on it. Note that it needs a stamp. One stamp should be sufficient.

### FILLING OUT YOUR BALLOT

Completely fill in the oval that marks the candidates of your choice (in ink). Do not put any stray marks on the ballot.

When you have completed the ballot, place it in the envelope marked **Official Absentee Ballot Envelope**.

- Sign and date the envelope in ink (VERY IMPORTANT). The date line is in small print below the signature line.
- Seal the envelope with the adhesive provided (usually a peel-off strip and self-adhesive). Don't use any other adhesive.

The Official Absentee Ballot Envelope goes into the envelope addressed to the Board of Elections. You must affix a stamp to the mailing envelope if you are going to mail it.

### DELIVERING YOUR BALLOT

An absentee ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and must reach the Board of Elections no more than 7 days after the election to be counted.

Absentee ballots can be:

- Mailed through the US postal service to the Manhattan Board of Elections at 200 Varrick Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014-7431. The envelope must be stamped.
- Dropped off at an early voting polling place between October 24 and November 1 or dropped off at an Election Day polling place. Deposit your ballot in the **Poll Site Absentee Ballot Collection Box**. Use the **Find Your Polling Place** tool to find your early voting place and your polling place for the general election [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](http://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov). The early voting place will not be the same as your regular polling place. Hours are shown with the early voting polling place information [Example, for me it's Hunter College Brookdale Dorm, 440 East 26 Street, New York, NY 10010, and there is another early voting place at Madison Square Garden - Lobby, 4 Pennsylvania Plaza 10001]. You can also view a sample ballot from this page.
- Delivered in-person to the Board of Elections office at 200 Varrick Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014-7431. Check their open hours, call 212-886-2100 or email [Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us](mailto:Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us).

This information is also posted on the MHNA website as an event in the General Election, November 3 event.

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## Census 2020 deadline is extended to October 5 (or maybe October 31\*)

\*The U.S. Department of Commerce wants to wrap up the Census on October 5, but there is a court order to extend the deadline to October 31. The latest action is that the census has until October 31. It is not clear if the case can be appealed further.

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**If you are a property owner or building manager, please advise your staff and residents to allow (properly identified) Census enumerators into the building to visit those residents who have not completed their census forms.**

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**Midtown, Midtown South, and Turtle Bay have lower than average response rates for the Census survey.** If you haven't already done it, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) to complete the census survey online. The deadline has been extended to **October 5**. All households should respond to the census for each of their addresses. Read below if you have more than one address. The census counts people where they live and sleep most of the time. The census count determines our neighborhoods' number of representatives in Congress, how districts are drawn, and distribution of funds.

**If you mistakenly filled out the Census using a temporary address outside of NYC, please re-do the survey using your NYC address.**

### **Attention Seasonal and residents with pied-a-terre apartments in Murray Hill!**

If you are a seasonal resident, please respond to the 2020 Census for your seasonal home address and indicate that nobody lives there. This will minimize the need for a census taker to follow up. You can complete the form online or over the phone by calling **844-330-2020**. Instructions for doing this online:

1. Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) and tap **Respond**.
  2. Tap **Start Questionnaire**.
  3. Enter the Census ID for your address or tap "If you do not have a Census ID click here"
  4. Select "A U.S. state or the District of Columbia" and tap **Next**.
  5. Enter the address for your secondary property and follow the prompts to enter your name and address.
  6. Enter "0" for the number of people living at this property
  7. Tap **Next**, and when a message appears "On April 1, 2020, were you living or staying at <your secondary home address>" tap "No" when asked to confirm no person lives at this property
  8. Select primary reason – "For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use" and follow the prompts to complete the survey.
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## Upcoming events

**October 5 7pm**

**Online meeting: Community Board 6 Transportation Committee**

Agenda: Presentation on a redesign of the 37th Street FDR Underpass, Discussion on speeding and red light cameras, Discussion of open street application for East 36th Street, between Tunnel Approach Street and 1st Avenue, Report from the NYC Department of Transportation and more.

This meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar. You can register to attend the meeting at [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pPYkXMbgTyO2LaQzI\\_qrWA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pPYkXMbgTyO2LaQzI_qrWA).

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**October 6 3:30pm**

**Webinar: Small Business Leases and Evictions: What is legal; what is reasonable?**

Small business owners are invited by Pace University's Small Business Development Center to join this webinar. Register at [register.gotowebinar.com/register/3410214887704177419](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3410214887704177419).

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**October 6 7pm**

**Online meeting: Community Board 6 Parks, Landmarks, & Cultural Affairs Committee**

Agenda: Continued discussion regarding the proposed design for the reconstruction of the St. Vartan Park playground, Report from the Department of Parks and Recreation, and more.

This meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar. You can register to attend the meeting at [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2EmK8snPSOmBV4GeuCaaMQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2EmK8snPSOmBV4GeuCaaMQ).

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**October 7-9 starting 10am**

[\*\*The NYC Media Lab Summit 2020\*\*](#) is a free online conference that will bring together 1,000-plus virtual attendees from NYC Media Lab's core community—including media and tech executives, university faculty, students, investors, and entrepreneurs—to explore the future of media and tech in New York City and beyond. Events include discussions, workshops, and innovative demos with media & tech execs, university faculty, students, investors, and entrepreneurs.

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**October 7 1pm**

**Rescheduled: Policing & Police Reform in the Nordic Countries**

Scandinavia House presents three panelists from the Nordic countries to discuss policing and police reform in those countries. Re-register for the webinar at

[us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mC4EQjINQk-2gpneeNoU9Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mC4EQjINQk-2gpneeNoU9Q). Panelists: Lars Holmberg (Professor of Law, JUR Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law, University of Copenhagen), Kimmo Himberg (Senior Researcher, the Police University College, Tampere, Finland), and Margrét Valdimarsdóttir (Assistant Professor of Police Science at the University of Akureyri), with ASF Fellow Vanessa Barker (Associate Professor of Sociology, Stockholm University and Director of Border

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Criminologies) as moderator. The panelists will discuss Nordic policing systems, public attitudes towards police, and the ways in which debate has spurred reform over the years.

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**October 8 7:30pm**

### **The CUNY Graduate Center presents CHANGE: Climate Action After COVID-19**

One possible silver lining of the pandemic—seen in empty city streets and unpolluted skylines—has been a glimpse of what a cleaner, low-carbon future could look like. What have we learned about shifts in consumption, norms, and attitudes that can serve as a catalyst for new thinking and collective climate action? How do we take into account government capacity and the financing needed to address this existential threat? A panel of experts explores these pressing issues. Panelists: Stephen Hammer, adviser to the World Bank Group on climate change issues; Stephanie Pincetl, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and founding director of the California Center for Sustainable Communities; and Patricia Romero-Lankao, senior research scientist at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. William Solecki, professor of geography at Hunter College and of earth and environmental sciences at The Graduate Center, who is director emeritus of the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities, will moderate.

REGISTER ON ZOOM [gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rtuk22afToGFNRO7BNNPmA](https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rtuk22afToGFNRO7BNNPmA)

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**October 14 6–7:30pm**

### **NYC Council Member Ben Kallos hosts an information session on vote by mail, early voting, election day and third party lines**

This online event is in partnership with Attorney General Letitia James, Borough President Gale Brewer, Senator Liz Krueger, Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Council Members Diana Ayala and Keith Powers, Community Boards 6, 8 and 11 and more. This is a non-partisan event. There will be presentations from Early Vote NY, State Board of Elections and DemocracyNYC. **You must RSVP by Tuesday, October 13** [benkallos.com/event/voting-information-session](https://benkallos.com/event/voting-information-session). You will receive the link and telephone numbers when you register. Skip the RSVP and watch the stream at [Facebook.com/BenKallos/live](https://Facebook.com/BenKallos/live).

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**October 14 5–6pm**

### **Medicare Fall Open Enrollment Presentation**

Hosted by New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson and the Medicare Rights Center. Understanding Medicare is no simple task, and the importance of Medicare in helping people build and maintain their health and economic security has increased during the COVID-19 crisis. Medicare Rights Center representatives will discuss and answer questions related to: Medicare eligibility, costs and coverage, changes you can make during Fall Open Enrollment, cost-saving programs, including Extra Help. Register at [mailchi.mp/medicarerights.org/council-speaker-johnson-fall-open-enrollment](https://mailchi.mp/medicarerights.org/council-speaker-johnson-fall-open-enrollment).

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**October 15**

### **Medicare Open Enrollment begins for 2021**

Preview plans at [medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?lang=en&year=2021](https://medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?lang=en&year=2021)

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**October 17 1-2:30pm**

**Online conversation: Reimagining Education During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

The Church of the Covenant Faith Health and Wellness Ministry invites you to join their Fall 2020 Conversation. Moderated by Alexandra Rojas, Educator; Adjunct Instructor, Rutgers University, with expertise in Adult Learning, Digital Leadership, Virtual Teamwork. Panelists: Deeba Ahmad, PhD., Professor of Anatomy & Physiology, Valencia College, Orlando, Florida, LaToya Edwards, President, West Windsor Plainsboro AfricanAmerican Parent Support Group, New Jersey, Jamison Fort, MS, Educator, Community Advocate for Education & Founder & CEO of Eco Tutoring Services. To register for this free Zoom online conversation or for more information please email

[bjiedmonds54@gmail.com](mailto:bjiedmonds54@gmail.com). For more information please contact email [bjiedmonds54@gmail.com](mailto:bjiedmonds54@gmail.com) or call 212-697-3185. The Church of the Covenant is located at 310 East 42nd Street (near 2nd Avenue), New York, NY, 10017 [covenantchurchnyc.com](http://covenantchurchnyc.com). [Flyer](#)  
Online Zoom event

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**September 9 7pm**

**Nordic Book Club Virtual Book Talk: *The Family Clause* with Jonas Hassen Khemiri**

Scandinavia House presents Jonas Hassen Khemiri, the acclaimed author of *Montecore*, to discuss *The Family Clause*, a novel which will be released in English translation beginning on August 25. In this novel, per a longstanding family agreement, a grandfather has maintained his Swedish residency while living abroad by coming to stay with his son every six months, where he finds endless things to criticize. Over the course of ten intense days, the grandfather is confronted by his past, while his children are faced with impossible choices. Register for the book talk at

[us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DbQcQ6BdSTCuXg1\\_NcbNg?mc\\_cid=4a0f8ff741&mc\\_eid=b394ff0e2d](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DbQcQ6BdSTCuXg1_NcbNg?mc_cid=4a0f8ff741&mc_eid=b394ff0e2d). Send audience questions ahead of the discussion to [info@amscan.org](mailto:info@amscan.org). Select questions will be chosen for a Q&A following the conversation.

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**November 17 Deadline for EDC RFEI**

**Building Owners – Do you have an appropriate building for Garment District manufacturing?**

Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer launched the Garment Center Steering Committee in 2017, which aimed to lift manufacturing restrictions while still protecting the important garment manufacturing ecosystem. As a result, the City's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) agreed to acquire a building to provide affordable manufacturing space for garment manufacturers; now, the EDC has issued a RFEI (Request for Expression of Interest) for building owners to offer possible properties for purchase by the City. Complete the Garment Center Building Acquisition RFEI by Nov. 17 [edc.nyc/building-acquisition-garment-center-manhattan-rfei](http://edc.nyc/building-acquisition-garment-center-manhattan-rfei).

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## Canceled events

### [Met Opera cancels entire 2020-21 season amid COVID pandemic](#)

September 23, 2020, *abc7ny.com*, by Eyewitness News

The Metropolitan Opera announced Wednesday that it is canceling the entire 2020-21 season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic...it was determined that it would not be safe for the Met to resume until a vaccine is widely in use, herd immunity is established, and the wearing of masks and social distancing is no longer a medical requirement.

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### **Mayor de Blasio extended [Executive Order 148](#) to December 31**

**Executive Order 148 sets limitations on event permits through December 31, 2020.** Frequently asked questions about the about Executive Order 148 can be found at [www1.nyc.gov/assets/counseltothemayor/downloads/Event-Permits-FAQ.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/counseltothemayor/downloads/Event-Permits-FAQ.pdf). Apply for street permits at [www1.nyc.gov/site/cecm/about/sapo.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/cecm/about/sapo.page) and parks permits at [nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/parks/Login.aspx](http://nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/parks/Login.aspx).

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## Recorded events

### **Feature Presentation: [Coming Together](#) (Digital World Premiere)**

The Baryshnikov Arts Center presents the Quodlibet Ensemble with Reginald Mobley, countertenor. This filmed music collaboration—created and performed by artists who share a passion for social and political justice—features *Coming Together*, Frederic Rzewski’s minimalist masterpiece for narrator and ensemble based on text by Samuel Melville, an inmate who led the uprising at Attica Prison in 1971. Partially filmed last month at BAC’s John Cage & Merce Cunningham Studio in socially-distanced performances, the film also includes songs and spirituals by early 20th century composer Florence Price, and a timeless cantata by J.S. Bach. *Coming Together* is co presented by BAC, Five Boroughs Music Festival, Tippet Rise Art Center, and Bay Chamber Concerts in partnership with VOTESart, a non-partisan organization founded by two members of Quodlibet that combines musical performances with raising awareness about voters’ rights and voter registration. (running time 47 minutes) The Baryshnikov Arts Center, 450 West 37th Street, 646-731-3200.

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**September 28-October 31**

### **Stream the NYC Ballet’s free repertory performances**

[nycballet.com/season-and-tickets/fall-digital-season](http://nycballet.com/season-and-tickets/fall-digital-season). New performances will be posted weekly. Watch on Facebook, Youtube or [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com).

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## The MHNA Discount Program

### New

**New York City Ninja Academy** - New York City's first and only dedicated ninja warrior obstacle training facility, 917-903-7535, 625 West 55th Street, *10% off registration for any class or event with MURRAYHILL promo code*; email: [ninjanewyorkcity@gmail.com](mailto:ninjanewyorkcity@gmail.com).

### Removed

**Modern Pinball**, 362 3rd Avenue, permanently closed. We will miss this unique business, which also provided lectures on the science of pinball for school trips.

Please be prepared to show proof of membership when you ask for a discount. Full list of discounts at the links below.

### [Restaurant and Food Discounts](#)

### [General Discounts](#)

## Kudos to Murray Hill businesses!

**El Parador Café—now open for indoor dining as well as dining on their outdoor patio.** El Parador Café, 212-679-6812, 325 East 34th Street, [elparadorcafe.com](http://elparadorcafe.com). Seated private dinners of up to 20 people can be accommodated in their party space, La Cueva.

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**Fine & Rare, Indoor Dining is Back with Live Jazz.** 5pm to 12 midnight, Sunday Brunch, 11:30am to 3:30pm, 9 East 37th Street, 212-725-3860 or [Info@GoodnightGroup.nyc](mailto:Info@GoodnightGroup.nyc), [fineandrare.nyc](http://fineandrare.nyc)

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**The Raines Law Room at the William is reopening**, 24 E 39th Street, 646-837-6776, [raineslawroom.com/midtown](http://raineslawroom.com/midtown).

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## Kudos to Murray Hill public schools (partial listing)!

**COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#).** As of October 2, no cases were reported.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#).** As of October 2, no cases were reported.

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## Murray Hill in the news

### [A Bellevue Doctor's Pandemic Diary](#)

October 1, 2020, *newyorker.com*, by Danielle Ofri

A primary-care physician at the oldest public hospital in the nation keeps a journal as New York City traverses the coronavirus peak.

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### [Florida Was Nice, but This Couple Was Ready to Come Home to New York](#)

September 17, 2020, *nytimes.com*, by Joyce Cohen

Seeking cooler weather and 'the pulse of the city,' Glenn Snider and Allen Sistrunk put their \$500,000 budget to the test in Manhattan. Which of these options would you choose? Among their options: No. 1 Kips Bay Studio, No. 2 Murray Hill Alcove Studio, No. 3 Washington Heights One-Bedroom.

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*Photo: The two lions, Patience and Fortitude, were each given the masks in late June, intended to show solidarity with New Yorkers and remind them to keep up their mask-wearing during the pandemic. (New York Public Library)*

### [Masks Stolen From Midtown Library Lions: Report](#)

October 2, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Vandals keep stealing a pair of giant face masks from the iconic lions at the New York Public Library's Midtown branch, the system says.

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## Zoning

### **Illegal Mechanical Voids**

[Source Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's email, *In case you missed it: This week's COVID newsletter*, October 3, 2020]

Last Friday (9/25), a state court decision stopped development of 50 W. 66th St., a 775-foot tall building planned by Extell, in an "Article 78" lawsuit brought by the City Club against the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), which had approved the Dept. of Buildings' (DOB) building permit. The

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court declared that “‘mechanical voids,’ meaning space in a building denoted as ‘mechanical’ but without mechanical equipment or a mechanical purpose, or vastly larger than necessary for any mechanical purpose, are illegal.” The court also ruled that “any such spaces must be included in all floor area and height calculations...” and that “split lot” developments such as 50 W. 66th St. must respect the zoning regulations on each respective zoning lot. Extell is likely to appeal the court judgment [gothamist.com/news/judge-voids-city-permit-controversial-upper-west-side-luxury-mega-tower](http://gothamist.com/news/judge-voids-city-permit-controversial-upper-west-side-luxury-mega-tower).

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## Changes in the neighborhood



*Looking east on 36<sup>th</sup> Street towards 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Two weeks ago, the SW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue at 36<sup>th</sup> Street was designated as a demolition site. Scaffolding had been erected, work permits were displayed, and the sidewalk and one lane of 36th Street had been blocked to facilitate demolition. Since then, the scaffolding has been taken down, and the sidewalk is again available for pedestrians. This work site is very close to the Sniffencourt Historic District. If anyone knows what is happening with this construction site, please share with [nancysheran@gmail.com](mailto:nancysheran@gmail.com).*

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## [Empire State Building Spire Restoration Nears Completion In Midtown](#)

September 28, 2020, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Vanessa Londono

The Empire State Building has been undergoing a restoration project since June 2019 to return the iconic landmark to its original silhouette. Now in its final stages, photos reveal the restoration of the 1930s Art Deco luster on the Midtown edifice. Empire State Realty Trust, along with project managers JLL, master riggers from ColeNYC, and CANY Architecture and Engineering have joined forces to return the structure to its original architectural design. In 1931, when the Empire State Building was completed, the distinctive spire stood decorated with Art Deco sculptural aluminum wings and multi-story illuminated glazed lanterns. *Photo: Empire State Building. Courtesy of Empire State Realty Trust.*

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## **Bryant Park Corporation seeks approval to go ahead with Winter Village**

On October 1 the Bryant Park Corporation presented a plan to Community Board 5 Parks & Public Spaces Committee on modifications to the **Bryant Park Winter Village** so that it may return this season (October 30th) as an outdoor experience.

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## [NYC's First Coronavirus Supply Store Opens](#)

September 16, 2020, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

A business billing itself as the city's first coronavirus safety supply shop opened in Midtown Wednesday, selling masks, UV lights and more. The CV-19 Essential store near Herald Square is selling safety products for homes and businesses, including face masks, cell phone sanitizers, plexiglass dividers, UV lights and air purifiers. The store, described as a "'Safe Zone' Interactive Experience Center," is at 41 West 35th Street, between 5th and 6th avenues. It will be open Monday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm.

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## **Traffic, travel and transportation**

**New York State has issued updated guidance for taxis, for-hire vehicles and other transportation services.** Drivers are encouraged to transport passengers with the

windows down to increase ventilation, and to implement physical barriers between rider and driver, in addition to the mandatory mask wearing requirement for both drivers and passengers. Updated guidance

[governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/PrivateAutoTransportationMasterGuidance.pdf](https://governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/PrivateAutoTransportationMasterGuidance.pdf).



*Photo of the renovated and redesigned mezzanine at the 4/5/6 Grand Central-42nd Street Station, courtesy of Community Board 6.*

Work on Grand Central-42nd Street's 4/5/6 mezzanine is now complete! This work consisted of floor tile and column work. Now that the work is done, there is an additional 5,400 square-feet of space for riders. This work is part of the MTA's 42nd Street Connection Project [new.mta.info/system\\_modernization/42ndstreet](https://new.mta.info/system_modernization/42ndstreet).

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## [Sightseeing Helicopter Tours Bounce Back To Disturb New Yorkers' Fragile Peace](#)

September 23, 2020, *gothamist.com*, by David Cruz

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**Schools, children & youth programs**

## [How CUNY Has Started Its New Online Semester](#)

October 1, 2020, *gothamgazette.com*, by Victoria Merlino

A drop in student enrollment, and anxiety remain the hallmarks of an uncertain new period in the history of the nation's largest public urban university system. CUNY has chosen to remain almost entirely virtual this semester...Schools like Baruch College in Manhattan...lay out specific, phased timelines that state that campuses will not reach 100 percent capacity for staff and students until a COVID-19 vaccine is found, or the virus is otherwise contained.

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## Housing, homelessness & affordability

**The New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) has informed Community Board 6 of their plan to open a new shelter in our district on East 40th Street near Lexington Ave.** Unlike the temporary hotel shelter sites DHS has opened during the pandemic, this new shelter would be a permanent establishment and would house 174 adult family units.

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### The Harmonia

The letter below follows a rally to protest the Mayor's plan to relocate men from the homeless shelter at the Lucerne Hotel to The Harmonia shelter at 12 East 31<sup>st</sup> Street (formerly The Chandler Hotel). The Harmonia was set up two years ago to be a shelter for adult families, and it provides supportive services. Residents of the Harmonia were to be moved to other shelters to make room for the men from the Lucerne. Residents of The Harmonia, Council Member Keith Powers, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Liz Krueger and others joined in the protest. Their advocacy was successful, and the inappropriate plan was retracted.

**Letter from Trish Marsik, Chief Operations Officer, Services for the UnderServed, September 25, 2020.** Services for the UnderServed is the organization that operates The Harmonia.

*Dear advisory board members/neighbors, by now all of you know that Services for the UnderServed (S:US) was notified this month that Harmonia would be suspended in order to house another group of homeless individuals at the Chandler Hotel. This afternoon we were informed that this decision has been reversed and S:US and the families we serve will be staying where we are.*

*Needless to say we are overjoyed! We are also very aware of the support and advocacy all of you have brought to this situation. Thank you. Even before this occurred we have been grateful for everything you have done to make the families at Harmonia feel a part of this neighborhood for the last 2 years, and for helping to make this program the success it has been. However your efforts over the last two and a half weeks have been overwhelming. Thank you for being our astounding partners as we work to change lives for vulnerable New Yorkers.*

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We look forward to our ongoing work together.

Warm regards,

Trish

“Opportunity for  
all”

**Trish Marsik** | *She/her/hers* | Chief Operations Officer

**Services for the UnderServed, Inc.**

463 Seventh Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018

D: 917.408.5344 I C: 917.453.1501

email: [tmarsik@sus.org](mailto:tmarsik@sus.org) I Website: [www.sus.org](http://www.sus.org)

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### [Rent law challenge dismissed; battle may go to higher court](#)

September 30, 2020, *therealdeal.com*, by Georgia Kromrei

Landlord groups CHIP and RSA plan to appeal the decision, which upholds New York’s rent laws.

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### **CB6's Housing, Homeless, & Human Rights Committee panel discussion on systemic solutions to our city's homelessness crisis**

If you missed the event, you can find a video of it archived on the CB6 YouTube channel

[youtube.com/channel/UCVn0y\\_oPVdX0vvRFI70YAig](https://youtube.com/channel/UCVn0y_oPVdX0vvRFI70YAig). The panelists were Heather Frey, Assistant Vice President, Programs at Breaking Ground, Sheila P. Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement at the Drug Policy Alliance, Tierra Labrada, Policy Analyst at the Supportive Housing Network of NY, Felix Guzman, Activist at VOCAL-NY, Lauren A Curatolo, Project Director at Midtown Community Court.

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## **Budget & taxes**

### [Moody’s Downgrades New York State, New York City Credit Ratings](#) (paywall)

October 1, 2020 , *wsj.com*, by Heather Gillers, Katie Honan and Jimmy Vielkind

Ratings concern cites mounting toll of coronavirus pandemic on state and local economies, with sales-tax and income-tax revenues cratering. Moody’s Investors Service downgraded the credit ratings of both New York City and New York state on Thursday, a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic’s mounting toll on the New York economy. The general obligation bond ratings of both the city and state fell one level, to Aa2 from Aa1, though they remain high investment grade. Moody’s kept the

city's outlook "negative," saying its rating could drop further if the city relies heavily on borrowing for cash flow.

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## Government, executive orders, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

Intro. 2032-A: **Aligns the City's Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law** with recently enacted New York State Paid Sick Leave Law. The law expands paid safe and sick leave to employees of small businesses with four or fewer employees and a net income of more than \$1 million. This legislation also expands paid leave for workers at the largest businesses, those with 100 or more employees must now provide up to 56 hours of paid sick leave.

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Intro. 2083-A: Amends Local Law 55 of 2020, which **temporarily prohibits the enforcement of personal liability provisions in commercial leases or rental agreements involving COVID-19 impacted tenants**, by extending the sunset date of this protection from September 30, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

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**Medical Insurance changes.** Gov. Cuomo announced final regulations requiring insurers to put into place policies and procedures that will ensure that they are providing comparable coverage for mental health and substance use disorders. The regulations will strengthen insurers' obligation under both state and federal law to provide comparable coverage for benefits to treat mental health and substance use disorders and will go into effect on December 29, 2020. **Parity Compliance Program** [governor.ny.gov/news/during-national-minority-mental-health-awareness-month-governor-cuomo-advances-new-regulations](https://governor.ny.gov/news/during-national-minority-mental-health-awareness-month-governor-cuomo-advances-new-regulations).

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### **New Program: Mediating Establishment and Neighbor Disputes (MEND)**

Mayor De Blasio announced a new program that builds on the efforts of the [Office of Nightlife](#) to provide mediation to New Yorkers and hospitality businesses across the city who are in disputes over quality-of-life issues. Administered by the [Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings](#) (OATH) in partnership with the Office of Nightlife, **MEND (Mediating Establishment and Neighbor Disputes)** [www1.nyc.gov/site/oath/conflict-resolution/mediating-establishment-and-neighbor-disputes](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/oath/conflict-resolution/mediating-establishment-and-neighbor-disputes) NYC will create opportunities to resolve such disputes by referring cases where there may be chronic or urgent quality-of-life complaints related to a restaurant, bar, or other nightlife venue to OATH's [Center for Creative Conflict Resolution](#). By providing residents and businesses an opportunity to collaboratively design creative solutions and repair tense relationships, MEND NYC aims to mitigate the need for formal enforcement, such as issuing summonses, which can add financial hardship to small businesses that are already under tremendous strain.

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9/30/2020 **New reforms go into effect prohibiting businesses from charging a "pink tax,"** otherwise known as the practice of charging different prices for "substantially similar" consumer goods or services that are marketed to different genders. Violations of the law are subject to the court ordered enjoinder of such sales, restitution to consumers, up to a \$250 fine for the first violation, and up to \$500 fine for any subsequent violations. The New York State Division of Consumer Protection serves to educate, assist and empower New York State consumers. Starting September 30th, if you find a product or service offered for sale in New York State that does not comply with the new law, you may contact the Division of Consumer Protection at 800-697-1220 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm or file a complaint online at [dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection](https://dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection). The Division can also be reached via Twitter at @NYSConsumer or Facebook at [facebook.com/nysconsumer](https://facebook.com/nysconsumer). Read more [governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-reminds-new-yorkers-pink-tax-ban-goes-effect-today](https://governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-reminds-new-yorkers-pink-tax-ban-goes-effect-today).

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**PENDING FEDERAL LEGISLATION:** The House of Representatives [our representative is Carolyn Maloney] passed the new **HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act** proposal that includes the RESTAURANTS Act and Save Our Stages Act, both of which provide critical financial support for our restaurant and nightlife industries. The bill also includes another round of stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, and Paycheck Protection Program loans, as well as state and local funding. The bill is pending in the Senate.

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**The NYPD's proposal to change the rules governing press access** is opposed by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, who states that the changes give the NYPD overwhelming authority to revoke press credentials for almost any reason. Read her testimony [manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-18-Statement-on-Proposed-NYPD-Rules-for-Press-Credentials.pdf](https://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-18-Statement-on-Proposed-NYPD-Rules-for-Press-Credentials.pdf).

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### **Mayor de Blasio Announces New York City's Recovery Agenda**

September 24, 2020, Mayor de Blasio released New York City's recovery agenda, focusing on public health and social justice. This announcement will kick off a series of policy proposals, which are focused on four principles to make New York City stronger, healthier, and fairer: continue the City's momentum in fighting back COVID-19, make the City a hub for public health research, create high-quality jobs, continue making New York the fairest city in America.

### **Mayor de Blasio announced a competition to accelerate the development and deployment of rapid COVID tests.**

Submissions from participants will be evaluated based on their performance and how well they meet the following criteria: ease of use; the delivery of quick and accurate results; scalability and cost; and clarity of communication with patients and health agencies. The City hopes to have Rapid Tests

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identified via the competition in the next several months. More information can be found at [edc.nyc/rapidtesting](https://edc.nyc/rapidtesting).

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## Reports

**[NYC Hospitality Alliance August Rent Report](#)**, September 21, 2020

A new survey released by the NYC Hospitality Alliance found that nearly 9 in 10 restaurants, bars and nightlife venues could not pay full rent in August...According to the survey, sixty percent of landlords still have not waived rent during the Covid-19 pandemic, and of landlords that did waive rent, less than one-third waived more than 50 percent. The survey also found that 90 percent of respondents could not renegotiate their lease as a result of Covid-19. Details of survey [thenycalliance.org/assets/documents/informationitems/5Mm2P.pdf](https://thenycalliance.org/assets/documents/informationitems/5Mm2P.pdf).

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**Press Release: [DiNapoli: Restaurant Industry Critical to New York City's Economy](#)**,

October 1, 2020

Pandemic Threatens Future of Thousands of Restaurants and Bars.

Report: **The Restaurant Industry in New York City: Tracking the Recovery**

[osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/osdc/pdf/nyc-restaurant-industry-final.pdf](https://osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/osdc/pdf/nyc-restaurant-industry-final.pdf).

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## Scams

**There are an unprecedented number of coronavirus-related scams circulating.**

Stay abreast of the latest Coronavirus-related scams by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's webpage [ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams](https://ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams). You can also subscribe to alerts.

## Our government representatives

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.

**Manhattan Community Board 5:** [www.cb5.org](http://www.cb5.org), 212-465-0907, [office@cb5.org](mailto:office@cb5.org)

**Manhattan Community Board 6:** [cbsix.org](http://cbsix.org), 212-319-3750, [office@cbsix.org](mailto:office@cbsix.org)

**NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2:** [council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera](http://council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera), 212-677-1077, [District2@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District2@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Speaker, Corey Johnson, Council District 3:** [council.nyc.gov/district-3](http://council.nyc.gov/district-3), 212-564-7757, [SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SpeakerJohnson@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4:** [council.nyc.gov/keith-powers](http://council.nyc.gov/keith-powers), 212-818-0580, [KPowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:KPowers@council.nyc.gov)

**Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:** [manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-8300, [info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov)

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

**Landmarks Preservation Commission:** [www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page)

**NY State Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger](http://nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger), 212-490-9535, [lkrueger@nysenate.gov](mailto:lkrueger@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 27th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman](http://nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman), 212-633-8052, [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly District 73,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart), 212-605-0937, [quartd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:quartd@nyassembly.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly District 74,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein), 212-979-9696, [epsteinh@nyassembly.gov](mailto:epsteinh@nyassembly.gov)

**NY Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Assembly District 75,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried), 212-807-7900, [GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov](mailto:GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov)

**New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings** [And archived videos can also be accessed on this page.] [nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming](http://nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming)

**New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings calendar** <https://www.nyassembly.gov/leg/?sh=hear>

**U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York's 12th Congressional District:** [maloney.house.gov](http://maloney.house.gov), 212-860-0606, website contact form: [maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me](http://maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me)

**U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer:** [schumer.senate.gov](http://schumer.senate.gov), 212-486-4430, website contact form: [schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck](http://schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck)

**U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:** [gillibrand.senate.gov](http://gillibrand.senate.gov), 212-688-6262, website contact form: [gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me](http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me)

**U.S. President Donald Trump:** [whitehouse.gov/people/donald-j-trump](http://whitehouse.gov/people/donald-j-trump) website contact form: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

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[Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**The MHNA  
Better Together!**

If you are not a member  
or your membership has lapsed  
please [join/renew](#) now

Connect with The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association



And, don't forget to tag **@MHNAnc**  
in your Murray Hill-inspired Instagram photos!

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