



Murray Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Information that may be of interest...

January 10, 2022

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 2021.

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.

Stabilization Bed Facility Comes to 161 Lexington Avenue

In their November 2021 newsletter, Community Board 6 updated us on the status of the hotel at 161 Lexington Ave at 30th Street, which has been operating as an emergency homeless center since 2020. CB6 spoke with [Project Renewal](#), the site operator at that time, and they informed CB6 that they would be ceasing all operations at that site by the end of 2021. Project Renewal, in fact, did cease operations at that site. However, a different operator, [BRC](#), also a nonprofit organization serving the homeless, entered into an agreement with the NYC Department of Homeless Services to operate the site as a stabilization bed program. Stabilization Beds are for clients seeking and needing less supervision and structure. Although stabilization bed programs are established at the discretion of DHS and are not subject to community board review, CB6 has asked BRC and DHS to attend the next Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting on January 18, as it is important that they tell us more about their program and answer questions from the community:

January 18 6:30pm

Community Board 6 Housing & Homelessness Committee meeting

This meeting will include a presentation from BRC on a new stabilization bed site at 161 Lexington Avenue. Register at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_StNoW8DQSjaJsD31Yftk9A.

The 29th Street Neighborhood Association is circulating a survey regarding 161 Lexington Avenue. Take the survey if you would like to provide details on how the shelter will impact you us10.list-manage.com/survey?u=5e127c77c5aecd16795a97c8b&id=0c0663b16f&e.

Pandemic trivia, cartoon from the Spanish Flu pandemic, December 1918.



Traffic and transportation advisories

Bus and subway delays

There will be sporadic and temporary delays and closures for MTA buses and subways, due to covid-related staff shortages. Check the MTA website for details new.mta.info.

Do not call 911 for an ambulance unless the situation is life-threatening

Due to covid-related staff shortages of EMS staff, please do not call 911 to get a covid test, unless the situation is life-threatening. See below for information on how to get tests.

Pandemic updates

The covid transmission rate shows us how much the virus is spreading. The transmission rate is still “high” for zip codes 10016 and 10017, but it has leveled off in the past weeks. Data taken January 7, 2022. The highly contagious Omicron variant is now dominant, and represents the majority of covid cases. While most people have mild or no symptoms, covid can be serious or lethal for some people. People who test positive should not mingle with other people. Transmission rate data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker (www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page).

Protect yourself and stop the spread:

- get vaccinated; get a booster when eligible
- wear a [good mask](#)
- practice social distancing
- hand hygiene
- stay home if sick

Immunocompromised and vulnerable people are advised not to attend gatherings while the community rate of transmission is high.

If you test positive for covid, stay home, wear a mask, and isolate yourself from other people until you don't have symptoms for 5 days, or if you are fully vaccinated, until you have a negative test.

If you are indoors with other people, open the windows to get better ventilation.

Free home Covid tests for residents of the 27th District

State Senator Brad Hoylman's office has a limited quantity of free at-home COVID-19 tests exclusively for residents of the 27th Senate District. Please complete the following form (<https://bit.ly/HoylmanTests>) if you are interested. Supplies are limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. One test kit per family please. District map for the 27th District nysenate.gov/district/27.

(new) The CDC Expands Booster Shot Eligibility for people aged 12-17 years

The Centers for Disease Control now recommends that adolescents age 12 to 17 years old should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. Data show that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. [Learn more.](#)

[NYC Sees Huge Spike In COVID-19 Hospitalizations Among Kids](#)

December 27, 2021, *patch.com*, Gus Saltonstall

New York Department of Health warned about an increase in pediatric COVID-19 hospitalizations. Around half of the New York pediatric hospitalizations due to COVID from Dec. 5 to the week starting on Dec. 19 are kids under the age of five – who are not eligible to be vaccinated...None of the children recently hospitalized in New York between the ages of 5 and 11 were fully vaccinated and only one-quarter of the 12 to 17-year-old patients were fully vaccinated, according to the health memo from the Department of Health...The New York Health Department recommends the following interventions to stem the number of children being hospitalized with COVID in the state. **The recommendations are:** Get all children fully vaccinated who are eligible. Don't assume that a mild respiratory illness is a routine "cold"; test for Covid-19. Wear a mask, social distancing, avoid crowds. If a person tests positive, they should stay home and away from other people, wear a mask and socially distance when with other people.

(new) New York To Require Health Care Workers To Get COVID-19 Vaccine Booster within 2 weeks of becoming eligible.

(new) Governor Hochul announced that visitors to nursing homes will be required to have a negative Covid test withing 24 hours of the visit. Additional rapid test kits will be provided to the facilities for visitors. Visitors must also wear a surgical-grade mask.

[Editor's note: According to my mother's senior residence, no news yet about when the additional rapid test kits will be provided. Again, it has become difficult for them to obtain PPE and test kits. They are asking for people to be tested before they come.]

Walk-in PCR tests at the Times Square subway station from 8am to 2pm and **Grand Central Terminal from 3 – 8pm**...New Yorkers seeking to find a testing location should visit: www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page.

Bellevue Hospital in Kips Bay at 26th Street and 1st Avenue, is the nearest NYC Health & Hospitals free testing site. PCR test results usually come back in 1-2 days. Walk-in testing is available. Wait times are unpredictable.

Healthsource pharmacy offers rapid and PCR testing, 120 East 34th Street, 212-481-6600.

Midtown New York Doctors Walk-In Urgent Care offers rapid and PCR testing, 205 Lexington Avenue (at 32nd Street), 212-684-4700.

Covid therapeutics

Two covid pills have been approved: Pfizer's Paxlovid and Merck's molnupiravir. Both pills must be taken within days of becoming infected with covid-19, and they prevent the virus from becoming serious. Supplies are currently limited, and priority will be given to immunocompromised people, and those at high risk. A number of novel therapeutics (e.g., monoclonal antibodies) are available under EUA [Emergency Use Authorization] for early outpatient treatment, but only one of the available products is effective with the Omicron variant. Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html.

In-home vaccinations. All New Yorkers can [sign up online for an in-home vaccination](#) or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). Anyone 12 or older is eligible for in-home vaccination. Get all members of your household vaccinated!

In-Home Testing for Immunocompromised New Yorkers and Those Ages 65 and Older

Those who are 65 and older or are immunocompromised can schedule a free at-home COVID test. You can find more information about the program at nychealthandhospitals.org/pressrelease/nyc-test-trace-announces-at-home-testing-for-immunocompromised-and-those-ages-65. Appointments for at-home testing are available seven days per week, from 9am – 7pm. New Yorkers may schedule an appointment by calling 929-298-9400. Please answer your phone if you make an

appointment. Testers will want to confirm the appointment, and their phone number may not indicate that they are testers calling.

FDA approved at-home test kits [fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2).

The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will begin accepting applications soon. In the meantime, NYS HAF encourages you to review their Application Guide nyhomeownerfund.org/application-guide which includes a [list of documents](#) you may need when you are ready to submit your application. Learn more at nyhomeownerfund.org. NYS HAF expects to receive significantly more applications than can be funded by the program. Applications will be processed in the order they were received. Application submission does not guarantee you will receive financial assistance.

[Feds delivering \\$1 billion to COVID-ravaged city hospitals: Schumer](#)

January 5, 2022, *nypost.com*, by Carl Campanile

FEMA's [Federal Emergency Management Agency] allocation of \$924.4 million is reimbursement for services the 11 public hospitals and five other nursing facilities provided to treat and try to save the lives of very sick patients during the devastating initial COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, Sen. Charles Schumer told The Post...The feds previously provided \$266 million, bringing total reimbursement to NYC Health + Hospitals to \$1.19 billion...The funding provides 100 percent reimbursement to cover staffing, equipment and patient care during the emergency and will help shore up the finances of the stretched hospital system.

More Covid-19 information for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017) towards the bottom of this newsletter, in the section [NYC's Reopening](#).

For businesses, nonprofits & workers

If your business is facing a real-time emergency, you may contact Small Business Services (SBS) by calling 311 or 212-618-8810. To connect with the SBS Emergency Response Unit & Intergovernmental Services, please e-mail ERU@sbs.nyc.gov.

Community-based organizations that can help distribute at-home test kits and KN95 masks, please [fill out this form](#).

January 28 (application deadline)

Applications are now open for the Manhattan Borough President's Cultural Tourism Grants manhattanbp.nyc.gov/funding/cultural-tourism-grants. The Manhattan

Borough President's office administers these grants in partnership with the NYC & Co. Foundation. These small grants support arts and culture organizations and promote tourism to all neighborhoods in Manhattan hosting music, theater, walking tours, festivals, and film screenings. Apply at grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=manhattanborough.

(recorded) Training Webinar Overdose Prevention and Naloxone

The presence of fentanyl in NYC's drug supply has dramatically increased the number of overdose deaths, and the webinar helped instruct NYC nightlife venue owners and workers on what steps they can take to prevent an opioid overdose and save a life. Participants were urged to become Certified Opioid Overdose Responders and receive an Overdose Rescue Kit with naloxone, a medication that can save someone's life by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. Presented by The Office of Nightlife and the NYC Department of Health. Watch the virtual Nightlife Training Webinar on YouTube youtube.com/watch?v=TQnu8UyLivA.

For buildings

Department of Buildings Hosts Live Q&A Sessions and Industry Meetings

(virtual) Live Q&A Sessions - Bi-weekly online Q&A Session for property owners, registered design professionals, filing representatives and other licensees/registrants provides a space for attendees to ask job specific questions for filings in DOB NOW, the Buildings Information System (BIS), or general questions about permits, Construction Codes, Zoning Regulations, sign offs,

certificates of occupancy, place of assembly, equipment installations, violations and civil penalties, etc.

Next Manhattan meeting is Tuesday, January 11, 2 - 3:30pm. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/dob-manhattan-borough-qa-session-tickets-219960777607](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dob-manhattan-borough-qa-session-tickets-219960777607).

(virtual) Industry Meetings – a monthly online, borough-specific industry session for registered design professionals to discuss policy and business process questions that are not job specific. The meetings will also include a review of recent updates and policy decisions.

Next Manhattan meeting is January 19, 2 - 3:30pm.

Learn more at the NYC Department of Buildings events page www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/dob/upcoming-events.page, and register at [eventbrite.com/e/dob-manhattan-borough-monthly-industry-meeting-tickets-220168238127](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dob-manhattan-borough-monthly-industry-meeting-tickets-220168238127).

Make your views known!

Central Business District Tolling Program (congestion pricing) comments still accepted

Congestion pricing website new.mta.info/project/CBDTP. Other ways to comment are:

Online: mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/cbd_tolling

Email: CBDTP@mtabt.org

Mail: CBD Tolling Program, 2 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10004

Phone: 646-252-7440

Fax: 212-504-3148

Related: [As Traffic Roars Back, Neighborhoods Outside Manhattan Feel the Pain](#)

December 28, 2021, *nytimes.com*, by Winnie Hu, Patrick McGeehan and Nate Schweber

Some of the worst traffic congestion in New York City during the pandemic has shifted to the boroughs outside Manhattan, including the Bronx.

Flatiron Partnership community survey

The Flatiron & NoMad community boundaries have recently been extended northward to 33rd Street in some places. Take the Flatiron Partnership annual community survey to evaluate their work and help identify the priorities for Flatiron & NoMad. Questions focus on services they provide including sanitation, public safety, homeless outreach, community programming, district marketing, and greening/horticulture. The survey should take only 5 -10 minutes. As a thank you, four respondents who complete the survey will be randomly selected to receive a \$100 gift card to spend at a Flatiron/NoMad business. [Take the survey.](#)

through December 31

DCP Seeks Input for Urban Design Resource Being Created for and with Communities

The NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) launched an interactive urban design website that will allow the public to give input on updating the [Principles of Good Urban Design](#), a resource that communities can use to help advocate for their needs, both present and future ones. Please visit the [interactive website](#) in order to give your feedback!

Feedback will be accepted through the end of the calendar year. All feedback will help inform DCP's update to their Principles of Good Urban Design, which will be released in early 2022.

January 10 5pm

Deadline for public comments on the Proposed Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project (formerly known as The Empire Station Complex Civic and Land Use Improvement Project)

The hearings and protest marches for this year are finished, but **comments on the GPP and the revisions proposed by ESD staff and the DEIS are requested**. Comments must be delivered by January 10 at 5pm. They may be delivered in writing to ESD, 633 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017 (Attention: Stacey Teran); or sent by e-mail to empirestation@esd.ny.gov. Written or e-mailed comments received after **5pm on Monday, January 10, 2022** will not be considered. Learn more about the ESD at esd.ny.gov/penn-station-area.



Penn Station (center) and the Midtown skyline. Rendering courtesy of The Official Website of New York State.

Related: Press release from Governor, November 3, 2021, [Governor Hochul Unveils Commuter-First Vision for Penn Station and Revitalized Surrounding Neighborhood](#)

Related: [MTA chair: 10 new towers may not fund Penn Station expansion \(paywall\)](#)

The NYC 5-Year Streets Plan has been released - DOT would like to hear from you!

The New York City Department of Transportation wants to hear from you about the NYC 5-Year Streets Plan. NYC DOT Master Street Plan www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/nyc-streets-plan.shtml. Share your feedback at nycdotsurveys.info/survey/share-thought-nyc-street-plan. Email nycstreetsplan@publicworkspartners.com with your questions. This is your chance to let DOT know what your priorities are and how you'd like to see the streets and sidewalks designed and managed.

through January 23

Participatory Budgeting Ideas Collection

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. PB gives people real power to make real decisions over real money. PBNYC: The People's Budget enables New York City residents to propose, evaluate, and vote on projects in their City Council districts. Successful projects will be funded by Council Member discretionary funds. Discretionary funds are monetary resources Council Members typically allocate based on their local priorities. The **Ideas Collection** phase of the NYC Council participatory budgeting will end on **January 23**. PB ideas must be for capital projects, public infrastructure projects that are worth more than \$50,000 with a lifespan of at least 5 years. During this phase you can make suggestions on how to improve our community in the areas of food insecurity, housing, parks & recreation, streets & sidewalks, transit & transportation, schools & education, public safety, etc. Council Member Erik Bottcher is allocating \$1 million for City Council District 3, which is participating in the program. Submit ideas for District 3, at participate.nyc.gov/processes/ccdistrict3. Some past projects for the district are count-down displays at 5 bus stops, street tree protection packages, air conditioning at a library branch. Learn more at participate.nyc.gov/processes/pb. For the Murray Hill council districts that are not listed, you can submit your ideas at participate.nyc.gov/processes/pb/f/107. Council members are also looking for volunteers to help organize the projects. Contact your council member (contact information at the bottom of this document).



(still accepting comments) LinkNYC proposal to expand franchise to 5G

LinkNYC kiosks have replaced public pay phones and Fire Department call boxes. Currently there are many LinkNYC kiosks in our neighborhood. LinkNYC kiosks provide high-speed, free public wi-fi throughout NYC, free nationwide digital calling, 911 / 311 access, access to all social services hotlines, video-relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing, access to government and social services websites, advertising space for the City, community information, and local businesses, and a USB port for free charging of mobile devices.

Fifth-generation wireless technology, or 5G, must roll out citywide to enhance cellular connectivity by providing high-speed wi-fi for mobile devices for all New Yorkers. In August 2021, the Public Design Commission (PDC) approved the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication's (DoITT) design for a covering that houses mobile telecommunications equipment from multiple wireless carriers on individual City street poles. See the design at www1.nyc.gov/site/doitt/business/5g-design/5g.page. The buildout of 5G has already begun on pole tops, rooftops, and other infrastructure.

Now, the City is proposing a design to expand 5G through the city's existing LinkNYC franchise with Link5G kiosks. The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) presented the Link5G design to the Public Design Commission (PDC) in October. The new Link5G design includes two options: one with digital advertising screens and a second without screens. Although the size of the screen would not change, the proposed structure must be taller than existing LinkNYC kiosks in order to adequately provide 5G service. Both designs would be as tall as existing street poles (approximately 30 feet tall) and would be similar to the previously PDC-approved designs for 5G equipment on street poles.

DoITT is seeking the public's comments on this design proposal. Such comments may include: neighborhood aesthetic, size, and other feedback on visual impact. Take a look at the proposed designs at www1.nyc.gov/site/doitt/business/5g-design/link5g.page. Regarding placement of the kiosks, these are the current proposed rules: 90% of the new structures would be installed in the outer boroughs and above 96th Street in Manhattan to expand connectivity to underserved

communities. Only one Link5G would be permitted to be installed per block, and only on one side of the street per block. All LinkNYC kiosks must be at least 50 feet apart.

If you would like to comment, testimony can be sent to the NYC Public Design Commission via mail, fax or email: Public Design Commission of the City of New York, City Hall, Third Floor, New York, NY 10007, Fax: (212) 312-0836, Email: 5GDesignFeedback@doitt.nyc.gov and designcommission@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Jobs, volunteering, internships, contests & training

Bryant Park Corporation and 34th Street Partnership: Operations Associate

The Bryant Park Corporation and 34th Street Partnership are seeking applicants for the Operations Associate role that serves both companies. Candidates should have a demonstrated interest in urban affairs and public spaces, as well as a willingness to work nights and weekends. To apply, email your cover letter and resume to operationsjob@34bp.org. [Learn more](#).

Applications are now open for the 4th Annual New York City Public School Film Festival filmfreeway.com/NYCPublicSchoolFilmFestival

The Festival celebrates the talent and diversity of student voices throughout the five boroughs and was created as a partnership between The NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and the NYC Department of Education to provide opportunities for students to have their work recognized by industry leaders and explore careers in filmmaking. Films will be selected for the festival by a panel of educators and media professionals, and screened at events on May 20th and 21st, 2022. DOE middle and high school students can apply now through March 25, 2022 at www1.nyc.gov/site/mome/industries/nyc-public-school-film-festival.page.

DOT Art Barrier Beautification Initiative

The Department of Transportation's initiative DOT Art invites artists and designers to propose designs for their 2022 Barrier Beautification. This initiative commissions the installation of temporary mural and design treatments along concrete barriers that protect bike lanes and pedestrian walkways throughout New York City. Learn more about the initiative and on how to send a proposal for your mural to be part of the initiative at www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/barrier-beautification-rfp.pdf. Proposals should be sent to arts@dot.nyc.gov.

(update) Survey of New Yorkers Living on the Street: HOPE NYC

Community Board 6 has informed us that due to the recent rise in Coronavirus cases, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will not be using volunteers this year to help conduct an estimate of New Yorkers sleeping unsheltered on the streets. This survey usually takes place in January. www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/outreach/hope.page.

Upcoming events

The Big Apple Chorus will have virtual rehearsals during the covid surge

Monday rehearsals for the BAC will be held online via Zoom for a few weeks during the current covid surge. Please let BAC know if you are interested in attending a rehearsal by filling out the form at bigapplechorus.org/contact. They will send you information on how to access the Zoom rehearsals. Learn more about BAC at bigapplechorus.org.

January 11 (tickets and reservations open)

January 18 - February 13

[Broadway Week](#), [Restaurant Week](#), and [NYC Must-See Week](#)

HUGE savings to performing arts, restaurants, local attractions and museums. The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment is proud to support NYC & Company in these efforts which will offer visitors and NYC residents an opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of wintertime experiences at major discounted prices. For more information, please visit: nycgo.com/nyc-winter-outing.

January 11 12pm

Virtual book talk: *Present Tense Machine* with award-winning Norwegian author Gunnhild Øyehaug and author Jennifer Offill as moderator

Øyehaug will discuss her new novel, *Present Tense Machine*, out January 11 in translation by Karl Dickson from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. On an ordinary day in Bergen, Norway, in the late 1990s, Anna is reading in the garden while her two-year-old daughter, Laura, plays on her tricycle. Then, in one startling moment, Anna misreads a word, an alternate universe opens up, and Laura disappears. Both Anna and Laura continue to exist, but they are invisible to each other and forgotten in each other's worlds. Gunnhild Øyehaug is an award-winning Norwegian poet, essayist, and fiction writer. Her novel *Wait, Blink* was adapted into the acclaimed film *Women in Oversized Men's Shirts*. Øyehaug lives in Bergen, where she teaches creative writing. Jenny Offill is the author of three novels, most recently *Weather* (Knopf, 2020), which was shortlisted for the Women's Prize. She is a visiting writer at Bard College and lives in upstate New York. You may ask questions in the chat or send them in advance to info@amscan.org. [Learn more](#). Free, registration is required at

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MSwp1SPTYaE-0iYTwZ45A. This program is presented by Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, 212-779-3587, scandinaviahouse.org.

January 11 6pm

(virtual) Nordic Book Club: *Dog Park* by acclaimed Finnish-Estonian author Sofi Oksanen

A story of intrigue, betrayal, and murder in the global fertility market. *Dog Park* begins in Helsinki, 2016. Olenka sits on a bench, watching a family play in a dog park, as a stranger sits down beside her. Here they are, together – looking at their own children being raised by other people. Moving seamlessly between modern-day Finland and Ukraine in the early days of its post-Soviet independence, *Dog Park* is a keenly observed, dark, and propulsive novel set at the intersection of East and West, centered on a web of exploitation and the commodification of the female body. Learn more and register at scandinaviahouse.org/events/dog-park-book-club. This program is presented by Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, 212-779-3587, scandinaviahouse.org.

January 12 6pm

(virtual) Monthly tenant assistance clinics

The NYS eviction ban is set to expire on January 15, and federally-funded aid for back rent is nearly running out. Council Member Gale Brewer is restarting monthly tenant assistance clinics with the Goddard Riverside Law Project and TakeRoot Justice. This month's meeting will feature a discussion on the statewide eviction moratorium set to expire on January 15. Email district6@council.nyc.gov to sign up for the Zoom link.

January 12 12pm

(virtual) A Beginner's Guide to Planning for Elder Care

Planning for elder care requires a complete financial check-up for both financial and practical issues. Learn about the free services offered to all income levels, the different types of care, who pays for it, and what to expect. An action plan now alleviates anxiety. This event is presented by the New York Public Library Thomas Yoseloff Business Center. Learn more and register at nypl.org/events/programs/2022/01/12/beginners-guide.

January 13 5:30pm

(In-Person) Lecture and Discussion: Illuminated Hebrew Manuscripts: From Ashkenaz to America

In conjunction with [*Imperial Splendor: The Art of the Book in the Holy Roman Empire, 800–1500*](#), Sharon Liberman Mintz, Curator of Jewish Art at The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, and Adam S. Cohen, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Toronto, will consider the production, use, decoration, and meaning of Hebrew illuminated books made in Central Europe between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. Learn more and purchase tickets at

themorgan.org/programs/illuminated-hebrew-manuscripts-ashkenaz-america. MHNA members can get the Morgan Library member rate when purchasing tickets for events. Click "Member" when ordering online, or if you are ordering by phone mention that you are a MHNA member. The Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Avenue (at 36th Street), 212-685-0008.

State Senator Liz Krueger's 2022 Virtual Roundtable Series for Boomers and Seniors: Aging in Place, Living Well in the Community

The majority of older people want to age in place, and it is possible to do so with the right support and planning. This multi-part roundtable series will bring together experts and thought leaders to help us understand some of the vital components needed to age well in our community, including good health care, an accessible apartment, a plan for aging solo, and supportive technology. There will be seven sessions:

Thursday, January 13, 7 – 8:30pm, Good Medical Care As We Age

Thursday, January 20, 10 – 11:30am, The 4 Ms: A Framework for an Age Friendly Health Care System

Wednesday, January 26, 10 – 11:30am, Health Care Proxies and Living Wills

Thursday, February 17, 10 – 11:30am, This is Living: The Age Friendly Home

Thursday, March 31, 10 – 11:30am, Aging Alone Together

Thursday, April 28, 10 – 11:30am, Technology Really Can Help

Thursday, May 19, 10 – 11:30am, Advocating for the Change We Want

RSVP for any or all of the sessions in this year's series at tinyurl.com/2022SeniorRoundtableSeries.

January 15

The New York State Covid Eviction Moratorium is set to end.

Be sure you have applied for rental assistance if needed. Call 311 to be connected to rent, housing and legal assistance if you are in danger of eviction. See Upcoming Events for January 12 for a webinar on this topic.



Thornton Dial (American, 1928–2016), Ladies Stand by the Tiger (detail), 1991, Watercolor, graphite, and fabricated black chalk.

through January 16, 2022

The Morgan Library & Museum exhibit

Another Tradition: Drawings by Black Artists from the American South

Timed admissions. Proof of vaccination required for visitors age 5 and older. Purchase tickets at themorgan.org / Morgan Library members free. Fridays free from 5 – 7pm. [Reservations required.](#)

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue (between 36th & 37th Street)

212-685-0008

themorgan.org.

January 18 6:30pm

Community Board 6 Housing & Homelessness Committee meeting

This meeting will include a presentation from BRC on a new stabilization bed site at 161 Lexington Avenue (30th Street). Stabilization Beds are for homeless clients seeking and needing less supervision and structure. BRC is a nonprofit organization serving the homeless. Register at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_StNoW8DQSjaJsD31Yftk9A.

January 18 5:45pm (focus on CTE High Schools in Brooklyn and Staten Island)

January 19 5:45pm (focus on CTE High Schools in the Queens)

January 20 5:45pm (focus on CTE High Schools in Bronx and Manhattan)

(virtual) NYC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Virtual High School Fairs

You are encouraged to register for as many sessions as you can attend. Register at

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUXrs2R_1jo2jN91ySEO-5pv7fgjNqMjm2SOLV1Dc1h7IHDg/viewform.

January 19 - March 9 12pm

(virtual, 8 weekly events) Retirement A to Z

An eight-part series on Retirement Planning. These programs are designed to introduce you to the many possible sources of retirement income and resources, including social security, medicare, pension options including 401ks, individual retirement accounts, and annuities, as well as the complex issues faced when planning for loved ones with wills and/or trusts. The series aims to provide participants with the information needed to help them secure their finances for the future. Learn more and register at nypl.org/node/608188. Presented by the New York Public Library's Thomas Yoseloff Business Center, in partnership with the Museum of American Finance.

January 20 6:30pm

(virtual) Community Board 6's Public Safety Committee Meeting

Discussion on public safety, quality of life, and human rights priorities the new City administration should focus on, both within our district and citywide. Free. Register to join the meeting at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_svDUJQ6QQeimb5RGoRI7TA.

January 21 6pm

Metropolitan Synagogue Shabbat Services

Metropolitan Synagogue is excited to return to in-person Shabbat services with Sephardi virtuoso and singer Avram Pengas at their new location, Scandinavia House. Join them for a musically uplifting Shabbat service and a time to meet and greet friends, old and new. All are welcome and bring your friends! Please email inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org if you will be in attendance and have any questions. Proof of vaccination required for entry.

at Scandinavia House

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

January 22 2pm

(virtual) The Familiar and the Absurd: A panel discussion from Copenhagen with authors Ida Marie Hede, Ursula Scavenius, Steven Zultanski & Tom Conaghan

Virtual Danish Literary Panel with Copenhagen-based authors Ida Marie Hede, Ursula Scavenius, & Steven Zultanski moderated by editor and writer Tom Conaghan

The authors will discuss their newly translated books each exploring themes of the body and intimacy from unique sci-fi perspectives. *Adorable* by Ida Marie Hede (translated from Danish by Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg) describes a porous world, which is our world too, where grime, bacteria, and even death are intimately bound up with health and renewal. *The Dolls* by Ursula Scavenius (translated from Danish by Jennifer Russell) is a collection of four stories from a world both fantastically strange and gruellingly familiar where isolation, ruin, prejudice, and misinformation soar in an irresistible, susurrant fugue of displaced families yearning to belong. *Relief* by Steven Zultanski is a book of 11 poems that revolve around familiar experiences of discontinuous time: illness, recovery, habit, sleep, talk, forgetfulness. This event will take place as a Zoom webinar; please ask questions in the chat or send them in advance to info@amscan.org. Learn more and register at scandinaviahouse.org/events/danish-virtual-literary-panel. This program is presented by Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, 212-779-3587, scandinaviahouse.org.

January 26 1pm

(virtual webinar for older adults) Healthy Living in the Community: Staying Active As You Get Older

Manhattan Community Board Six and NYU Langone present a series on healthy living. Typically, as

we age, our body naturally loses muscle and bone mass, making activities of daily living harder to complete over time. But exercise provides an effective way to maintain strength and muscle and bone health, with added benefits—it enhances sleep, improves sense of well-being, and even helps to improve cognitive function. In this webinar for older adults, Kate Baird, a clinical exercise physiologist and Sports Health expert at NYU Langone’s Sport Performance Center, will discuss in more detail the many health benefits of exercise and will demonstrate some easy activities seniors can do right at home to improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. Free. Register at zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mo3_qqcTNCQyuleMLfDng.

Changes in the neighborhood



175 Park Avenue. Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

[175 Park Avenue’s 1,575-Foot-Tall Design Gains Approval In Midtown East, Manhattan](#)

December 31, 2021, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Skidmore Owings & Merrill’s mixed-use supertall at 175 Park Avenue in Midtown East...earlier this month gained approval from the New York City Council. Developed by RXR Realty and TF Cornerstone, the 85-story tower has been reduced in height from 1,642 to 1,575 feet, still enough to surpass Central Park Tower for the title of tallest building in New York by roof height. 175 Park Avenue will eventually rise from the site of the Grand Hyatt hotel between the 108-year-old Beaux Arts Grand Central Terminal and the 91-year-old Art Deco Chrysler Building. The structure will yield 2.1 million square feet of Class A office space; 500 Hyatt hotel rooms on the upper floors spanning 453,000 square feet; 10,000 square feet of retail space on the ground, cellar, and second levels; and

an elevated, 25,000-square-foot publicly accessible plaza space populated with artwork and views overlooking the surrounding Midtown streets.

Murray Hill in the News



[Midtown Brothel Run By Townhouse Squatters, Lawsuit Says](#)

January 3, 2022, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Tenants at a fancy Midtown townhouse opened a "members-only club" with prostitution, gambling and loud parties, a lawsuit alleges. The suit was filed by owner Mitche Spaiser in an effort to regain control of the townhouse he owns at 104 East 36th St., between Park and Lexington avenues. According to the suit, problems first arose in November 2020 when the existing tenant, Patricia Taub, sublet her four-bedroom, \$20,000-per-month triplex to Ashley Jurman. Not long after, Jurman and two business partners hatched an idea to turn the townhouse into a club, according to an affidavit – quickly spurring noise complaints from neighbors...Jurman, in her own affidavit, contends that her former business partners engaged in drug use, prostitution and "operating of a strip club" in an effort to drive her out of the townhouse.

Transportation

MTA Mobile Sales Van: MTA Mobile Sales Vans come to different locations in Manhattan

Throughout the month MTA mobile vans provide the following services: help with a Reduced-Fare application, Transfer MetroCard balances (Full fare and Reduced-Fare), Exchange a damaged Reduced-Fare MetroCard for a temporary replacement, Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard, Ask about any MetroCard-related issues.

You will find an MTA Mobile Sales Van at the following locations. Schedules are subject to change; make sure to check back before you visit. Call 511 for specific dates. Website

new.mta.info/fares/metrocard-buses-and-vans. Please verify the schedule below on the website.

East Side at 57 St. & Third Ave., 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10am – 12pm

Turtle Bay at 47 St & Second Ave, 1st & 3rd Thursday, 10am – 12pm

Kips Bay at 28 St. & Second Ave., 1st & 3rd Thursday, 1 – 3pm

Murray Hill 23 St (Between First Ave & Second Ave) (Across the street from CVS), 2nd & 4th Thursday, 10am – 12pm

Schools & students

January 18 (deadline for Kindergarten applications)

January 10 - February 28 Middle School applications

January 24 - February 28 High School applications

ongoing Elementary and 3K enrollment

ongoing Early Learn programs for children 6 weeks to 2 years old are available to families based on income and/or other factors.

NYC Public School applications

Due to high demand, placements may not be available for all 3K applicants. Contact your zoned school. Middle schools won't be allowed to use academic screens, but high schools can. The only screening criteria will be first semester grades from this school year and a work sample (no attendance or state test scores). The screening process will also be managed centrally, rather than by individual schools. High schools will be allowed to use borough and zone geographic priorities. Offers will be sent in May. Learn more at MySchools.nyc myschools.nyc/en, at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade, by phone at 718-935-2009 or at a Family Welcome Center schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers and at schools.nyc.gov.

School report cards for covid testing, which have been so good previously, show a large increase in positive tests over the last 2 weeks.

COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=464. Thirty-nine positive tests were reported since September 2020 (27 students, 12 staff). 23 positive tests in the last 14 days.

COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=516. Thirty-six positive tests were reported since September (30 students, 14 staff). Thirty new positive tests (students) in the past 14 days.

COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=299. Twenty-five positive tests since September. Twenty-three positive tests in the last 14 days (13 students, 10 staff).

COVID-19 Report Card for [J.H.S 104 Simon Baruch](#). Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=1,108. Eighty-three positive cases since September (76 students, 7 staff). Sixty-nine new positive tests in the past 14 days.

[An early test for Eric Adams: solving low attendance and a school staffing crunch](#)

January 3, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Alex Zimmerman, Reema Amin, and Christina Veiga
As students and educators streamed back into classrooms Monday, New York City's newly minted Mayor Eric Adams and schools Chancellor David Banks vowed to keep them there even as the region confronts a record-breaking surge of coronavirus cases...With many educators positive for COVID, some campuses on Monday struggled to field enough staff...At other schools, staffing issues did not appear to be an immediate issue — in some cases because staff absences were balanced by higher-than-usual absenteeism among students. Across the system, about 33% of students were absent on Monday, city data show...new quarantine policies took effect...The city has increased its random testing protocol to include 20% of vaccinated and unvaccinated students each week...Still, the program only tests students who have consented, and roughly 64% of the city's nearly 1 million students have not done so. The city is also instituting a "test-to-stay" policy, which allows classmates of someone who tests positive to remain in school instead of issuing wider quarantine orders, as long as they test negative twice over several days and remain symptom-free. The city has distributed 2.1 million at-home tests for the program so far, officials said. School staff should also be given two at-home tests per week in January even if they're not feeling sick...In the meantime, students who are quarantining (or opting to stay home out of concern about rising cases) may also have uneven experiences — or little instruction at all, educators said. Some teachers are trying to broadcast their lessons on Zoom for those who are at home. Others are simply posting assignments online for students to complete on their own time. Students are supposed to attend school in person unless they're required to isolate.

Albany 101: Here are the big NYC education issues to watch in the new legislative session

January 2, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Reema Amin

[S]tate lawmakers passed a budget last session that, for the first time, committed to fully cover Foundation Aid, the formula that provides the funding base for school districts and sends more money to those with higher needs. As a result, school districts received a total \$3 billion increase in the last state budget, with about a third of that just for New York City schools...Lawmakers must also once again decide whether to extend mayoral control of New York City's schools — just as a new mayor takes the helm...The New York State Educational Conference Board, a coalition of large organizations, including the state teachers union, is calling for updates to a more than 30-year-old formula that helps fund career and technical programs...The coalition is also calling for more money to address student mental health...Another focus will likely be on the inequitable access to advanced courses. In New York City, for example, white students are roughly 1.5 times more likely than their Black and Latino peers to take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses...Finally, with COVID vaccines now approved for all children ages 5 and older, some may lobby the state to mandate those shots for students...political observers say that such legislation won't likely be successful because the matter is too controversial.

Policing & police reform

Manhattan DA Bragg Tells Staff to Stop Prosecuting Certain Offenses

January 4, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Gwynne Hogan, WNYC

Manhattan DA Bragg's letter to staff: manhattanda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Day-One-Letter-Policies-1.03.2022.pdf

The Manhattan DA's office will not prosecute marijuana misdemeanors, transit fare beating, trespass unless accompanied by stalking, unlicensed operation of a vehicle, routine traffic violations and non-criminal offenses unless accompanied by a misdemeanor or felony, resisting arrest for the above, obstructing governmental administration unless done with physical interference, prostitution and patronizing prostitutes unless sex trafficking or money laundering is involved, outdated offenses such as obscenity or adultery. Misdemeanor charges will be offered diversion such as community based programming. Judgment should be used to identify people who suffer from mental illness, are unhoused, who commit crimes of poverty, have substance use disorders, and the goal is to provide services to these people. Presumption of pre-trial non-incarceration except for homicide, death of a victim, violent felony with deadly weapon causes serious physical injury, sex offenses, domestic violence, public corruption, rackets, major economic crimes. Sentences should be a maximum of 20 years, absent exceptional circumstances. Juvenile offenders should be removed to Family Court. Restorative justice will be expanded, where the victim consents. [Note: Restorative justice views crime as more than breaking the law – it also causes harm to people, relationships, and the community. So a just response must address those harms as well as the wrongdoing.] Regarding cases involving non-citizens, the office will seek dispositions that avoid immigration consequences.

Mayor Adams said that he has not communicated with the DA and will be talking with him soon.

Adams And Hochul Announce Agreement To Deploy More Police To Subways

January 7, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen, WNYC

Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams announced Thursday a new plan to address subway crime and homelessness with more police...they said their approach, one that includes teams of outreach workers and more housing options...The governor will issue a request for proposals for organizations that can address mental health and homeless issues...Adams said he will deploy "hundreds" of police officers to both target high crime subway stations, and also send officers who regularly patrol above ground...Karim Walker, with the group Human.nyc, which works independently of the city and state to conduct homeless outreach, said...We recommend that NYPD stay out of homeless outreach, and instead that the city and state empower homeless outreach teams to provide basic needs items and then permanent housing.

NYPD Systematically Fails NYers In Mental Health Crisis: Suit

December 29, 2021, *patch.com*, by Gus Saltonstall

A lawsuit was filed Wednesday challenging the "systematic failure" of the city to respond to New Yorkers having mental health crises...New York City has discriminatorily and unconstitutionally continued to use armed police officers as first responders to mental health crises," reads the suit...The lawsuit argues that the city should instead deploy mental health professionals as part of a comprehensive plan to protect New Yorkers in mental health crisis...The New York Police Department...spokesperson did say the department supports a pilot program going on in Upper Manhattan where mental health professionals are responding to these crises instead of officers.

Weekly crime reports

17th precinct

www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-017pct.pdf

13th Precinct

www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-013pct.pdf

Housing, homelessness, preservation, zoning & affordability

[NYC Must Provide Separate Housing for Trans People in Homeless Shelters Under New Settlement](#)

January 3, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Gwynne Hogan

New York City must provide dedicated, separate housing as an option for homeless trans and gender non-conforming people in city shelters in four boroughs, according to the terms of a recent legal settlement with Mariah Lopez, an activist with the Strategic Transgender Alliance for Radical Reform or STARR...The beds, which must have access to single-stall toilets and showers or private bathrooms, can either be located in new dedicated shelters or in separate units within existing shelter locations.

[Replace 421a, Supersize NYC Apartment Buildings](#)

January 5, 2022, *newsfamerica.org*, by admin987

Governor Kathy Hochul wants to repeal an important property tax deduction, raise the ceiling for the density of apartments in New York City and provide free attorneys to renters across the country. The governor will propose a replacement for the 421a tax exemption, which requires greater affordability and mandatory green building systems, such as CO2-neutral technologies and electrification...Hochul is also pushing for a lifting of the state's ceiling on housing density, which is limited to a floor area ratio [FAR] of 12 – a restriction that economists say has contributed to the high housing costs in New York City. Similar proposals have been made in the past, but recently failed to gain support from the Assembly. Removing this restriction, according to a policy book setting out Hochul's agenda, would allow the conversion of office buildings into living spaces. The book also indicates that Hochul will propose legislation to further ease zoning restrictions to make it easier for these conversions to move forward. The proposal reflects a measure introduced by Senator Brian Kavanagh in Manhattan last year that allowed certain hotels within 800 feet of residential districts to use their existing certificates for full-time residency. Such hotels will be subject to rent stabilization and other housing agreements. The governor's proposal would also allow offices built before 1980 or those south of 60th Street in Manhattan to be converted into housing until December 2027...Hochul will also speed up legislation that requires municipalities to allow at least one additional housing unit on owner-occupied, residential areas. Local authorities would set the size requirements for these ADUs [Accessory Dwelling Units], sometimes called best-apartments. Last year, Assemblyman Harvey Epstein and Senator Pete Harckham introduced legislation that would require municipalities to legalize ADUs.

[Related: Hochul: Supersize NYC apartment buildings, replace 421a \(paywall\)](#)

January 5, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Kathryn Brenzel

James Whelan, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, said getting rid of the [FAR] cap would pave the way for the city to rezone areas with good mass transit. In a statement, he also said REBNY supports "creating a new program that incentivizes the development of rental apartments and produces more affordable housing for New Yorkers," referring to whatever replaces 421a. The book also indicates that Hochul will propose legislation to further ease zoning restrictions to make it easier for these conversions to move forward.

[As NY's Eviction Moratorium Nears its End, Will Albany Pass 'Good Cause' Bill?](#)

January 7, 2022, *citylimits.org*, by David Brand and Daniel Parra

A piece of state legislation known as the Good Cause Eviction bill would give tenants...the right to a lease renewal in most cases, cap rent increases on existing tenants and prevent landlords from removing a renter without an order from a judge, even if their lease has expired or they never had a lease. Property owners would need to prove "good cause"—like nonpayment—to kick tenants out.

[Hochul Lays Out Affordable Housing Plan, Makes No Mention Of Eviction Moratorium](#)

January 5, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Gwynne Hogan and Chau Lam

New York Governor Kathy Hochul outlined a \$25 billion affordable housing plan that aims to create and preserve 100,000 units of affordable housing and 10,000 supportive housing apartments, as part of her State of the State address...tenant advocates said they were alarmed by Hochul's failure to mention one of the most immediate issues facing low-income tenants — the state's eviction moratorium, set to expire on Jan. 15...the federal government is only expected to replenish the state's rent relief funds with \$27 million — a fraction of the one billion New York had asked for...Shelly Nortz, the deputy executive director for policy with the Coalition for the Homeless, called on Hochul to extend the eviction moratorium, pointing to the 6.6% of New Yorkers still out of work..."In the absence of additional funds needed to meet the extraordinary amount of pent-up demand for back rent and ongoing rent subsidies, easily in the billions of dollars, homelessness will rise rapidly in the months ahead"...Hochul's \$25 billion housing plan boosts funding for affordable housing creation by \$5 billion and adds an additional 4,000 units of supportive housing to the agenda, up from prior commitments made by former Governor Andrew Cuomo. More specifics on how Hochul wants that funding spent will be laid out in her executive budget expected in the coming weeks. "That's really good, but we have 92,000 homeless New Yorkers," said Samuel Stein, a housing policy analyst at the Community Service Society. "We need a lot more than that."

[Housing: Trends to Watch for the Future of NYC](#)

January 5, 2022. *thecity.nyc*, by Suhail Bhat

New apartments became scarcer after the financial crisis — with fewer produced in the past decade than in the 2000s...New York City is struggling to produce enough homes to accommodate its growing population, after construction lagged following the 2000s fiscal crisis and again in the COVID pandemic. The number of housing units grew by 7% in the past decade, even while New York City's adult population grew by 10%...A widening gap between housing costs and wages has exacerbated an affordability crisis in New York City, pushing people into homelessness and to crowd into smaller apartments.

[Skylines and Streetscapes: How New York City Physically Changed in de Blasio Era](#)

December 29, 2021, *thecity.nyc*, by Rachel Holliday Smith

Pending ULURP 220132HAM

NYC Dept of Housing Preservation & Development is applying for a zoning variance for New Providence Redevelopment 225 East 45th Street [between 3rd & 2nd Avenue] zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/2021M0234

Joint application by [NYC] HPD and DHS [Department of Homeless Services] requesting a site selection, disposition of City-owned property, designation of an Urban Development Action Area, and approval of an Urban Development Action Area Project to facilitate construction of an as-of-right 21-story building with shelter beds, affordable housing, and a medical clinic located at 215 East 45th Street, in the East Midtown neighborhood of Community District 6, Manhattan. Next step is Manhattan Borough President review.

The Historic District Council is asking for your help to support the landmark designation for the Postum Building and the Hotel Roosevelt

Ask Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairperson Sarah Carroll to hold a public hearing to designate the Postum Building and the Hotel Roosevelt as New York City Landmarks. Support the protection of two rare survivors of the Terminal City Plan: the Postum Building (Cross & Cross, 1923) and the Hotel Roosevelt (George B. Post and Son, 1924). Time is of the essence, as the Hotel Roosevelt is now closed and empty, and the owners of the Postum building have hired an architect to “explore options.” Terminal City was an important private development in the early 20th century. It was based on City Beautiful Movement planning ideas, where a significant public building, in this case, Grand Central Terminal, was part of an ordered collection of masonry buildings that included the Hotel Roosevelt and the Postum Building. These treasured buildings give context to the landmarked Grand Central Terminal. The Hotel Roosevelt’s design and its interiors are architecturally and socially significant. The equally distinctive Postum Building is the only remaining building that, along with the New York Central Building, preserves the “Court of Honor” concept envisioned by Reed and Stem in 1903. Learn more about the Postum Building hdc.org/buildings/the-postum-building. Learn more about the Hotel Roosevelt hdc.org/buildings/the-roosevelt-hotel. Send an email to the LPC act.mynqp.com/Forms/-3480653383938601984.

Trivia fact: The Hotel Roosevelt was featured in the film, *Man on a Ledge* (2012).

[New York City Government Poverty Measure 2019, An Annual Report from the Office of the Mayor, 2021](#)

This edition of the report contains data through 2019, just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report shows poverty at a historic low: the NYCgov poverty rate of 17.9 for 2019 and near poverty rate of 40.8 are the lowest on record going back to 2005, the first year measured by [the Mayor's] office.

(opinion) [Quick, Key Steps the New Mayor Can Take to Help Homeless People and the Whole City](#)

January 05, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Robert Mascali

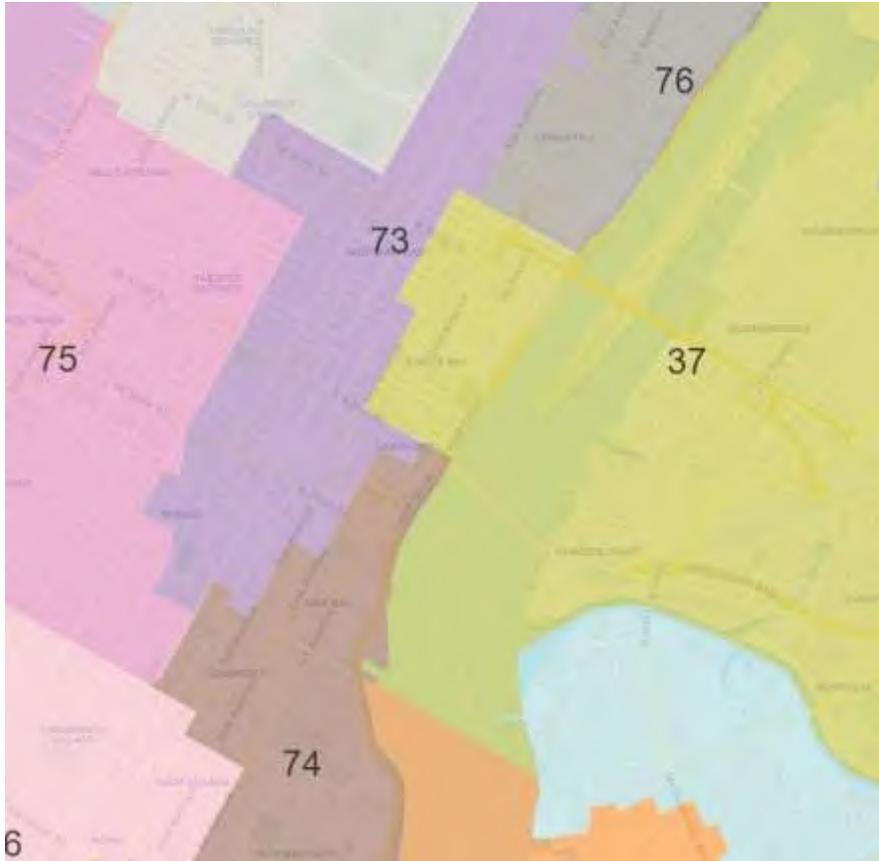
As he takes over New York City government, one fact new Mayor Eric Adams seems to know is that it is not OK to allow homeless people living on the streets and in the subway system to vegetate and sleep in filthy conditions. Many people in these situations obviously have serious mental health and physical health issues in dire need of attention. Several steps must be taken as quickly as possible, to help these individuals and to make the city a safer, cleaner, more livable place for all. The current standard for when someone can be committed for psychiatric treatment is that the person is a threat to themselves or others. But this has been interpreted too strictly, and there are both tools currently at our disposal, such as better use of Kendra's Law by the city and judiciary to mandate treatment, and an amendment to the civil commitment law. For the latter, a commonsense approach has been proposed by Dr. Loree Sutton, a former army psychiatrist who served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veteran Affairs. She has suggested that the civil commitment law be amended so that seriously mentally ill people can access inpatient services before exhibiting an immediate danger to themselves or others.

Elections and voting

[NYC Racial Justice Commission Approves Three Proposals for 2022 Ballot](#)

December 10, 2021, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

The three proposals would establish a new preamble to the City Charter; create new racial equity oversight bodies and a citywide racial equity plan; and establish a new measure of the "true cost of living" in New York City.



How will the proposed redistricting affect Murray Hill/Kips Bay district lines?

The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission released their proposed new district maps on January 3, 2022. These maps may determine the new district lines for Murray Hill's Congressional, State Senate, and State Assembly Districts. The Commission, evenly split between Democratic and Republican delegates, could not agree on one set of maps, and, as a result, two sets of partisan maps were submitted (A=Democrat, B=Republican). The State Legislature will decide which maps to use. It can approve one set of maps by a two-thirds majority, it can reject both sets of maps and send them back, or it can rewrite the maps.

A general observation is that the district boundaries for the proposed new maps are smoother and the districts are more compact for the districts affecting Murray Hill/Kips Bay. One question regarding the proposed State Senate and State Assembly maps is whether Murray Hill/Kips Bay voters, whose votes will be combined with those of voters from Brooklyn neighborhoods, will find their representation diminished under the new District maps.

[Learn more.](#)

[Mayor Adams not ruling out vetoing noncitizen voting bill, angering NYC Council progressives](#)

January 4, 2022, *nydailynews.com*, by Chris Sommerfeldt

[Editor's update: On the Sunday talk shows, January 9, 2022, Mayor Adams sounded like he will not veto the noncitizen voting bill, after talking to the bill's supporters. He said that he has reservations about the 30-day residency part of the bill (he would have liked a longer residency), but didn't want to hold up the bill just for that.]

Census

The 2020 Census results have been released (Manhattan's population grew by 108,378 people to 1,694,251). The NYC Dept. of City Planning has analyzed the data, and you can download the full spreadsheet of raw data here and DCP's analysis.

Raw data and briefing booklet with analysis www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/planning-level/nyc-population/2020-census.page##2020-census-results.

Government, budget & taxes, executive orders, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

The new City government officials who were elected in the local 2020 general election have taken office, as of January 1, 2022. Council member Adrienne Adams, was officially elected by the NYC Council as the council's speaker. Council Speaker is the second most powerful position in NYC government. For the first time, NYC Council has a majority of women members, and it is the most diverse NY City Council ever elected. Council Member Keith Powers was elected Majority Leader.

Governor Kathy Hochul gave her State of the State Address on January 5

[View it on YouTube](#). The Governor outlined a [policy agenda](#) designed to advance New York's recovery and restore New Yorkers' trust in government.

Rebuild our [healthcare](#) and [teacher](#) workforces.

Provide [tax relief](#) to those who need it most.

Speed up [economic growth](#) and create [good paying, middle-class jobs](#).

Strengthen [our infrastructure](#) and confront [climate change](#).

Secure [public safety](#) and make [housing more affordable](#).

Ensure [every New Yorker has a roof over their heads](#).

Enact [bold reforms for our State government](#).

Every single initiative is filtered through the lens of how it will help New Yorkers and their families. [Learn more about the proposals](#) to help our state come back stronger than ever before.

Many of Hochul's most ambitious proposals outlined in her State of the State address require federal funding and changes to the state constitution, legislative changes and additional grants from the Feds are outside of her control.

Related: [A first look at Gov. Kathy Hochul's 2022 State of the State](#)

January 5, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Rebecca C. Lewis and Zach Williams
From green energy to ethics reform...highlights from the [governor's] legislative agenda.

[Dan Garodnick to head City Planning](#) (paywall)

January 07, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Kathryn Brenzel
Former Council member played key role in Stuy Town deals, Midtown East rezoning...Garodnick, who was a Manhattan City Council member for 12 years, will also take over as director of the Department of City Planning, overseeing day-to-day operations and department staff...The former Manhattan Council member also shepherded the rezoning of Midtown East through the city's land use review process, after killing the Bloomberg administration's proposal for it in November 2013. At the time, Garodnick argued that the plan did not go far enough to ensure that infrastructure updates in the district would happen.

Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4, email *A Year in Review: Looking Back on 2021*

CM Powers notes some of his accomplishments during the past year: helping local restaurants through legislation and reducing regulations, reinvigorating NYC's tourism industry by improving pedestrian experiences at tourist spots, new attractions, , providing relief for struggling taxi drivers, \$160K supplemental sanitation services for the district through the NYC Cleanup initiative, funds for graffiti removal, investment in the citywide Cleanup Corps throughout the district, investment in parks (St. Vartan's Park and Robert Moses park in Murray Hill) and schools equipment and upgrades, transit improvements around Grand Central Terminal and the East Side Access, secured funding to establish a new vision for the Park Avenue Medians in East Midtown. This will afford us the opportunity to upgrade the malls to be wide and more accessible to pedestrians. The design team could be established as soon as this summer, with preliminary designs ready by next winter...and more.

[Hochul signs order delaying new rules for nursing homes](#)

January 4, 2022, *timesunion.com*, by Bethany Bump
A new law put on hold requires the state's nursing homes to beef up staffing and provide minimum level of care.

[New NYC Laws That Could Impact You In 2022](#)

December 30, 2021, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

From legal weed to a styrofoam ban to new protections for delivery workers, here are the city and state-level laws taking effect in 2022.

Report from Mayor de Blasio's office: The de Blasio Years: The Tale of a More Equal City, December 2021 www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2021/Wealth-Transfer-Report.pdf (13 pages)

['Didn't Quite Hit The Need': Bill De Blasio's Complicated Two-Term Legacy as Mayor of New York City](#)

December 31, 2021, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid & Ben Max

Bill de Blasio rode into office on the big promise of ending “the tale of two cities” by reducing the gaps between the haves and have-nots...He inherited a city with a booming economy and low crime, but exploding socioeconomic inequality and communities of color deeply resentful of the police; with flush municipal coffers...with record tourism but a growing homelessness crisis and crumbling public housing...Along with flush coffers, de Blasio had a City Council that he was largely in lock-step agreement.

The New York City Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform released its final report with recommendations to create a simpler, clearer and fairer property tax system, December 29, 2021

www1.nyc.gov/assets/propertytaxreform/downloads/pdf/final-report.pdf (72 pages)

NYC's reopening

New York State and NYC Many of the covid restrictions have been lifted, but due to the highly contagious Delta variant, the new omicron variant and **high** transmission rate in NYC, proof of vaccination and masks are required for most indoor public activities.

For information about specific NY agencies, check with the agency's website. Federal guidelines are still in effect. Learn more at the links below.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) covid webpage [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

Federal laws and regulations regarding covid [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html)

CDC Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) webpage on covid vaccines [fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines)

U.S. Department of State COVID-19 Travel Guidance for U.S. Citizens
travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information1.html

Federal resources for small businesses that are impacted by covid covid-sb.org.

New York State reopening guidance for businesses [forward.ny.gov](https://www.forward.ny.gov) and [governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf). Learn more at [forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance](https://www.forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance).

New York State information about reopening, covid rates and zones, vaccination program, covid restrictions and guidance, travel advisory, etc. [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

NYS travel advisory [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory).

New York City covid webpage (for individuals and businesses)
www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page.

New York State Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative. The Empire State Development page with information about grants, tax credits, and technical assistance programs for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at [esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative](https://www.esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative).

New York City Department of Health (DOH) covid webpage www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page

The NYC Citywide Information Portal with resource guides for businesses and individuals, including COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page and **311** portal.311.nyc.gov.

Covid-19 rate of transmission for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017). The data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page. Data taken on January 7, 2022.

New York State COVID-19 tracker forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard.

Your Neighborhood: 10016: Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad

Transmission data shows us how much the virus is spreading. Recent transmission in your ZIP Code and surrounding area:

- **High** transmission
- **1872.69** new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days.

Your Neighborhood: 10017, 10165, 10167, 10168, 10169, 10170, 10171, 10172, 10173, 10174, 10177: East Midtown/Murray Hill

Transmission data shows us how much the virus is spreading. Recent transmission in your ZIP Code and surrounding area:

- **High** transmission
- **1872.69** new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days.

Vaccinations

Vaccines are now readily available and are free. **The NYC Vaccine Finder** tells you everywhere in NYC that vaccinations are available and the type of vaccination offered vaccinefinder.nyc.gov.

Walgreens, RiteAid and CVS participate in the Federal vaccination program, as well as some independent pharmacies. They will be listed on the vaccinefinder.nyc.gov app. Check with your pharmacy to find out if they are offering vaccinations. You can also check with your primary care physician.

Vaccination data is from www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page on January 7, 2022.

Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad

ZIP Code(s): 10016
Estimated population: 50912.11

99% with at least one dose
53618 residents with at least 1 dose

91.94% fully vaccinated
46810 residents fully vaccinated

East Midtown/Murray Hill

ZIP Code(s): 10017
Estimated population: 15613.27

99% with at least one dose
20191 residents with at least 1 dose

99% fully vaccinated
16065 residents fully vaccinated

See murrayhillnyc.org for additional COVID-19 information, including

[Reopening](#)

[Testing](#)

[Vaccinations](#)

[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](#)

The NYC Citywide Information Portal

www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page and 311 portal.311.nyc.gov have created COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers. These resource guides contain information related to emotional well-being, rent and housing, NYCHA residents, and more. Get information and resources to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19 <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>.

Public service announcements

[How to avoid buying fake COVID tests online](#)

January 4, 2022, *consumer.ftc.gov*, by Colleen Tressler, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

[A]ccording to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, fake and unauthorized at-home testing kits are popping up online...Make sure the test you're buying is authorized by the FDA...Check out a seller before you buy, especially if you're buying from a site you don't know...Compare online reviews from a wide variety of websites...Pay by credit card.

Approved test kits [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/approved-covid-19-home-tests](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/approved-covid-19-home-tests).

The MHNA Discount Program

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](#)

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, 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 Member, Council District 3: Council Member Erik Bottcher: council.nyc.gov/district-3, 212-564-7757, District3@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 Mark Levine: 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 Eric Adams: 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

Schedule of hearings, sign-up forms to attend and more.

New York Senate website nysenate.gov.

New York State Assembly website nyassembly.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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

New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings calendar

<https://www.nyassembly.gov/leg/?sh=hear>

Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State, governor.ny.gov, contact page on website governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form

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

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

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

U.S. President Joseph Biden: website contact form: whitehouse.gov/contact

The White House site whitehouse.gov is once more a trusted source for news on legislation, press releases, White House press briefings, and more. Presidential actions whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions.

[Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**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 @MHNAnyc
in your Murray Hill-inspired Instagram photos!

Visit the MHNA website murrayhillnyc.org
Contact the MHNA by email at info@murrayhillnyc.org

You are receiving this email as a member of
The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
or because you have signed up to receive our emails.

To be removed from this list,
send an email to info@murrayhillnyc.org
with "Remove" in the subject.

