



# Murray Hill

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Information that may be of interest... February 21, 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](http://www.murrayhillnyc.org) in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2022.

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.

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## The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association wishes you a happy Presidents Day!

Today, Presidents Day (George Washington's Birthday) is one of only eleven permanent holidays established by Congress. One of the great traditions followed for decades has been the reading by a U.S. senator of [George Washington's Farewell Address](#) in legislative session, which remains an annual event to this day. Washington warned that the forces of geographical sectionalism, political factionalism, and interference by foreign powers in the nation's domestic affairs threatened the stability of the Republic. He urged Americans to subordinate sectional jealousies to common national interests.

### Holiday advisory

No Trash, Curbside Composting, or Recycling Collection on Presidents Day. Residents who normally receive Monday trash or curbside composting collection may place their material at the curb between 4pm and midnight Monday evening, for collection beginning Tuesday, however delays are to be expected, as is common after holidays and winter storms. We appreciate patience as we work to collect the backlog of material. Residents who normally receive Monday recycling collection should place their material out at curbside between 4pm and midnight on Sunday, February 27 for pickup on Monday, February 28. Please refer to 311 for updated operational information.

Government offices, the Post Office and NYC banks are closed on Presidents Day.

## New

### **The Café at 200 Lex Welcomes Amy's Bread!**

The cafe is on the 16th floor and is open to the public, Monday-Friday for breakfast, lunch, coffee, pastries. Learn more and see the menu at [nydc.com/news/amys-bread-now-open-at-200-lex](http://nydc.com/news/amys-bread-now-open-at-200-lex).  
The New York Design Center, 200 Lexington Avenue (between 32nd and 33rd Street), 212-679-9500.

## Traffic & transportation advisories

A list we don't want to be at the top of! Please be extra careful crossing the street around these intersections.

### **17th Precinct Most Dangerous Intersections for Collisions**

(Murray Hill intersections are highlighted in yellow)

**3rd Ave & East 37th Street** (street coming out of the Queens Midtown Tunnel going westbound)

**2nd Ave & East 57th Street** (proximity to the 59<sup>th</sup> Street/Queensboro bridge)

**2nd Ave & East 36th Street** (street going into the QMT from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, a street heading downtown)

**3rd Ave & East 59th Street** (proximity to the 59<sup>th</sup> Street/Queensboro bridge)

**2nd Ave & East 34th Street** (street going into the QMT, 34<sup>th</sup> Street is 2-way, entrance to FDR drive is also near this intersection)

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### **[City calls on Albany to let it make the roads safer, and to clear the way for buses](#)**

February 15, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen

The city does not have control over two integral ways to reduce traffic crashes on streets across the five boroughs: Neither the mayor nor the City Council can set the speed limit, and they can't control the traffic cameras that send automated tickets to drivers. But Mayor Eric Adams wants to change that...Adams was in Albany with a laundry list of things he'd like from state lawmakers, which included a request to allow New York City to have "home rule" when it comes to streets. This means the city—and not the state—would be allowed to set the speed limit and control the school speed zone cameras, as well as expand the use of cameras for enforcing bus lane restrictions...Robert Sinclair, senior manager of public affairs at AAA...argued that it was unlikely the state would rescind its oversight, "The authority to establish traffic laws and regulations has traditionally been the purview of the state legislature in order to avoid a patchwork of local rules."

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## [NYC Ferry Starts Churning Through Taxpayer Dollars](#)

January 27, 2022, *thecity.nyc*, by Katie Honan

A \$2.75 ride on NYC Ferry is getting expensive for taxpayers. Meeting records from the city Economic Development Corporation show its board approved up to \$62 million in new spending last month to float the boat network's operation – for the first time including city tax dollars. Former Mayor Bill de Blasio's budget office supplied a \$23.2 million infusion before he left City Hall at the end of last year, according to EDC, aid that has not previously been reported. Previously, EDC itself funded the ferry, which is run by the private company Hornblower Cruises. City budget experts estimate the subsidy amounts to \$9.34 per passenger per trip.

**Related:** Governor's Island now has daily, year-round ferry service and is open year-round.

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## Job opportunities

### Javits Center Tour Guide Job Openings

From April to October each year, the Javits Center offers public tours to provide visitors with an inside look at its operations, while demonstrating the importance of sustainability and the positive impact of the events industry. A tour guide would lead these educational tours on a regular basis, playing an integral role in communicating the mission and goals of the Javits Center and its business partners.

A qualified candidate must be able to navigate the entire Javits Center campus (from 34th to 40th streets and between 11th and 12th avenues) and be able to communicate with tour groups for the full length of the tour. Training on an ongoing basis will be provided by staff, along with a handbook that outlines the history and operations of the convention center. Tour guides will receive a uniform (hat, shirt and light jacket) to wear during tour operations.

Applicants can submit a resume via e-mail to [careers@javitscenter.com](mailto:careers@javitscenter.com). Questions should be directed to Human Resources at [careers@javitscenter.com](mailto:careers@javitscenter.com).

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### Become a NYC Parks Lifeguard

The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is looking for people to help keep beaches and pools safe next summer. Being a lifeguard will help you develop your swimming skills, earn NYC Lifeguard certification, become part of a team, and gain other skills that will be helpful over the course of a lifetime. Lifeguards work five to six days each week, and first-year lifeguards earn a minimum of \$16 an hour, for a weekly salary of about \$800. Learn more about what it means to be a NYC Parks Lifeguard, and the test you need to take if you're interested in becoming one at [nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards](https://nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards).

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## VaynerMedia LLC Summer 2022 Creative Intern

VaynerMedia LLC is a full-service digital agency. They partner with clients to drive their business outcomes with best-in-class modern video production, media planning & distribution, influencer marketing and more. What you'll be doing: help out with a range of creative work, you must be comfortable with creatively using a camera, iPhone, etc., work within a dynamic team structure with several creative leads, helping to support and deliver on brand specific campaigns, be involved with concepting, designing, developing, and putting the team in the best position to present the team's ideas, have strong typography skills, have a love and mastery of photoshop and feel very comfortable in all adobe creative suite programs. Please submit a digital portfolio with resume submissions. This 8 week program will run remotely, from June 13th until August 5th. Exact dates are subject to change. Learn more and apply at [boards.greenhouse.io/vaynermedia/jobs/3907501](https://boards.greenhouse.io/vaynermedia/jobs/3907501).

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## The Publicis Media Internship Program

A 10-week, 40-hour-per-week program beginning on June 6. The Publicis Media Internship immerses you in the fast-paced media industry. On a daily basis, interns will assist teammates with client and/or agency tasks gaining knowledge of basic media language and media math. They will become comfortable utilizing company systems such as Ad\*Views, Media Tools, the Source, MRI Applications, TARDIIS, MBOX and more. Each intern will be assigned an area based on interest, experience and capabilities. An internship at Publicis Media is more than just a job, it's an opportunity to explore the media/communications field as a career and learn more about the culture, business, and people. The internship program provides students with an invaluable learning experience in which they gain hands on experience in media, are able to apply academic knowledge in the business world and develop their skills. Learn more and apply at [jobs.smartrecruiters.com/PublicisGroupe/743999779612095-publicis-media-summer-2022-internship-new-york-city](https://jobs.smartrecruiters.com/PublicisGroupe/743999779612095-publicis-media-summer-2022-internship-new-york-city)

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## Pandemic updates

Transmission rate data shows how much the virus is spreading. **In Murray Hill** (zip codes 10016, 10017) transmission rate is **"high"** (decreasing). Daily average in NYC (last 7 days) **2.46%** (decreasing). Data taken on **February 18, 2022**. Covid data taken from [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page).

To protect yourself and stop the spread of the virus, precautions should be taken:

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- get vaccinated (get the booster when eligible)
- wear a mask in public places
- practice social distancing
- practice hand hygiene
- stay home if sick or if you test positive for covid-19. Notify your doctor if you have covid and seek care if seriously ill.

Get tested if you have been in a gathering with people outside your household.

If you have Covid, stay home for at least 5 days and wear a mask for at least 10 days when you are with other people.

More details about covid-19 are towards the bottom of this newsletter.

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### **Fine tuning criteria for CDC guidelines**

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said that the agency would soon issue new guidelines based on multiple factors-- like local hospital capacity-- not just the single metric of new cases.

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### **Vaccination incentives**

Mayor Adams has brought back \$100 gift card incentives for getting boosted until the end of the month (February 28). New Yorkers who get a vaccine booster at a city-run or SOMOS vaccination site will be eligible. Vaccination location finder [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov).

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### **For artists**

**New program for New York State artists who can demonstrate financial need.** The program will provide \$1,000 per month guaranteed income for 18 months as part of a new \$125 million initiative called [Creatives Rebuild New York](#). Applications are being accepted now for 2400 enrollees. **Three-hundred jobs are available (at a salary of \$65,000).** Work for a community-based organization or municipality. Funded by \$115 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, \$5 million from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and \$5 million from the Ford Foundation, the program is administered by the Tides Center. Learn more at [creativesrebuildny.org](https://creativesrebuildny.org).

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## **In the U.S., pills are outnumbering cases**

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email of February 19, 2022, [bloombergbusiness.com](https://www.bloombergbusiness.com)

For Americans unlucky enough to catch Covid even as the omicron wave recedes, here's a bit of comfort: Pills to treat the disease early now abound. As recently as last month, at omicron's peak, most patients who needed Paxlovid, the Pfizer drug considered first-line treatment for most high-risk patients with early Covid, couldn't get it...Now, with cases plummeting and government orders continuing to roll into pharmacies, doctors and health officials in New York and across the country say the supply is looking plentiful in many areas...Paxlovid cuts the risk of hospitalization or death by nearly 90% in high-risk patients, according to a Pfizer study just published in final form in the New England Journal of Medicine...“High-risk” is a category so broad – including even just being overweight – that most American patients fall into it...***Paxlovid should be taken as soon as possible after symptoms begin – no more than five days.*** So testing promptly is key...Another new anti-Covid pill, Merck's molnupiravir, which is less effective and used in narrower circumstances, is also now widely available.

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## **If you are in danger of being evicted**

Call 311 and ask for the Tenant's Hotline. Apply for emergency rent relief through the state's OTDA [ERAP] web portal [otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance)...an application will provide temporary protection from eviction...If you have a notice of a court date or an illegal lockout: call 718-557-1379 or 212-962-4795 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline, email the Office of Civil Justice at [civiljustice@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:civiljustice@hra.nyc.gov). Provide a name, telephone number, and housing court case index number for your eviction case (if known) in your email.

The NYS Homeowners Assistance Fund: The New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYHAF) portal is accepting applications for a waiting list. This program is for eligible homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement due to COVID-related hardship. Those who qualify can receive financial assistance to catch up on missed housing payments, reduce mortgage debt to make monthly mortgage payments more affordable, and receive up to six months of future housing payments. Apply at [nyhomeownerfund.org](https://nyhomeownerfund.org) or call 1-844-77-NYHAF. Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez held an online webinar about the program; [view the recording](#).

Also learn if you are eligible for **Section 8, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program** [www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/section-8-voucher-types.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/section-8-voucher-types.page).

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## **Fraud Alert: COVID-19 Scams**

Fraudsters are offering COVID-19 services in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. However, these services are unapproved and illegitimate. These scammers use the coronavirus pandemic to benefit themselves, and beneficiaries face potential harm. The personal information collected can be used to fraudulently bill federal health care programs and commit medical identity theft.

**Protect Yourself**

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- Be cautious of any COVID-19 testing site that requires your financial or medical information in order to receive a free test.
- Be mindful of advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media platforms. If you make an appointment for a COVID-19 test online, make sure the location is an approved testing site.
- Be careful! Scammers are selling fake and unauthorized at-home COVID-19 test kits in exchange for your personal or medical information. Make sure to purchase FDA approved COVID-19 test kits from legitimate providers.
- Do not purchase or reproduce fake COVID-19 proof of vaccination cards, and do not fill-in blank vaccination cards with false information.
- Be cautious of COVID-19 survey scams. Do not give your personal, medical, or financial information to anyone claiming to offer money or gifts in exchange for your participation in a COVID-19 vaccine survey.
- Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for their personal, medical, and financial information. Medicare will not call beneficiaries to offer COVID-19 related products, services, or benefit review.
- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls or visitors offering COVID-19 tests or supplies. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately.
- Do not respond to, or open links in, text messages about COVID-19 from unknown individuals.
- Be aware of scammers pretending to be COVID-19 contact tracers. Legitimate contact tracers will never ask for your medical or financial information or attempt to set up a COVID-19 test.

If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, report it immediately online at [oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud](https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud) or call 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).

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More Covid-19 information for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017) towards the bottom of this newsletter.

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## For businesses and nonprofits

### **State Senator Brad Hoylman's Fact Sheet for small businesses on getting financial relief**

This year's State budget includes \$1 billion in financial relief for small businesses. On top of that, the federal government has made up to \$5.3 billion available in relief to New York's small businesses. I've compiled everything you need to know to access this money in an easy to follow fact sheet. [nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2021/brad-hoylman/new-york-small-business-pandemic-recovery-initiative-fact-sheet](https://nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2021/brad-hoylman/new-york-small-business-pandemic-recovery-initiative-fact-sheet).

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February 22 2pm

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## **(webinar) COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program**

\$800MM in grant funding is now available for eligible NY small businesses. [Learn more and register](#) for this webinar explaining the NYS Small Business Recovery Grant Program. The webinar is presented by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

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**February 24 11am - 12pm**

### **(virtual) Tax Deductions for Home Office Use**

(free) Topics: the requirements to qualify for a deduction, how to determine the business percentage of home use, the types of expenses you can and cannot deduct, how to determine the limits on deductions, and where to deduct the expenses on your return. The SBA will host the event on Microsoft Teams. Register at [sba.gov/events/1705438](https://sba.gov/events/1705438). Hosted by The Small Business Administration (SBA), in collaboration with IRS. Sponsored By: Small Business Administration - Virginia District Office. See the full schedule [irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/webinars-for-small-businesses](https://irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/webinars-for-small-businesses).

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**February 24 12 - 1:30pm**

### **(virtual) Where Are Your Customers? Here's a Tool for You: Simply Analytics!**

Simply Analytics is a database which can help you do research on your prospects, customers, and competition. It's an online tool for creating maps, finding information about people and their purchasing habits, businesses, and demographic data. It's a great resource which can help you analyze a location for a new business or to find a good location if you are thinking of expanding your business. You can use Simply Analytics to create maps and detailed demographic reports in just a few clicks. It has the data you need to answer key research questions, make sound business decisions, and understand the socio-demographic and economic conditions of any geographic area in the United States and Canada. Register at [nypl.org/events/programs/2022/02/24/where-are-your-customers-heres-tool-you-simply-analytics](https://nypl.org/events/programs/2022/02/24/where-are-your-customers-heres-tool-you-simply-analytics). Presented by The New York Public Library Thomas Yoseloff Business Center, 455 Fifth Avenue, [nypl.org/locations/snfl/yoseloff-business](https://nypl.org/locations/snfl/yoseloff-business).

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**February 25 1 - 2pm**

### **(virtual) Using Simply Analytics for Business**

Learn how the data visualization database SimplyAnalytics can be used to prospect for a location for a new business, compare different locations, and get detailed demographics about a selected location. Ask your specific questions and see how SimplyAnalytics can help your business! Register at <https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2022/02/25/using-simply-analytics-business>. Presented by The New York Public Library Thomas Yoseloff Business Center, 455 Fifth Avenue, [nypl.org/locations/snfl/yoseloff-business](https://nypl.org/locations/snfl/yoseloff-business).

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## **Entrepreneurism is on the rise across America.**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Americans registered 4.3 million new businesses in 2021 – a 24 percent increase from 2019. Make sure you know how to start a business with these simple steps [score.org/blog/starting-business-2022-what-know](https://score.org/blog/starting-business-2022-what-know). Learn more about workshops for businesses, mentors, etc. at the SCORE website, [score.org](https://score.org). SCORE is supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration [sba.gov](https://sba.gov).

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## **Transportation & travel**

### **'It will take care of our family' – NYC's for-hire vehicle drivers get 5.3% raise**

February 12, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jen Chung and Elizabeth Kim

The city first established a minimum wage for the for-hire drivers in 2018. Before the law was passed, he said, the ride-hail app companies incentivized quick pick-ups, which meant more drivers on the streets but many without passengers...The raise does not apply to other sectors of the for-hire driver industry, including yellow and green taxi cabs.

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## **Make your views known**

### **Sign a petition for more trees in NYC**

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine joins with the other Borough Presidents to circulate a petition calling on the City to plant, restore, and reforest a million trees across the five boroughs by 2030. The "Million More Trees" initiative sees NYC's trees as so much more than a way to make our city more beautiful—it prioritizes trees as the essential infrastructure they are, driving positive outcomes in public health, equity, and resiliency.

[See the YouTube](#) (1.19 minutes)

[Read New York Times Article](#) on "A Million More Trees"

[Sign the petition](#)

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### **Should Open Restaurants (outdoor dining) be made permanent?**

The New York City Council's Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection conducted a hearing last week about making Open Restaurants (outdoor dining) permanent. While most people like having outdoor dining as an option (in good weather), many people object to the dining sheds that were erected curbside during the pandemic, the noise and sanitation issues. The rules would have to be carefully thought out to have a sustainable permanent program. Councilmember Gale Brewer is a member of the committee and reports that the legislation would: task the Department of

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Transportation (DOT) with administering the program (taking over the sidewalk cafe law), remove the requirement for an establishment to have commercial zoning (required in the "sidewalk cafe" era) in order to participate, DOT's current plan proposal would allow seasonal roadway dining but not enclosed and permanent structures. The program requirements are still being designed and are subject to City Council oversight and CAPA (the public engagement rules-making process). You can watch a recording of the hearing at [councilnyc.viebit.com/player.php?hash=iqyuT6XDGMaN](https://councilnyc.viebit.com/player.php?hash=iqyuT6XDGMaN). [Learn more](#).

Over the course of the coming weeks and months the Council will be gathering feedback on the framework for creating a permanent outdoor program which will cover both cafes on the sidewalk and in the street. Your continued engagement on how we should craft a permanent outdoor dining program is valued. There is no definitive timeline on the legislation. No vote has been scheduled yet. If you would like to weigh in on this issue, email your government officials, and Gale Brewer at [district6@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district6@council.nyc.gov) with "Open Restaurants" in the subject line. Contact information for government officials is at the bottom of this email.

### Related articles

#### [NYC plans to get rid of outdoor dining sheds once the pandemic ends](#)

February 8, 2022, *nypost.com*, by Reuven Fenton, Maggie Hicks and Bruce Golding

The Department of Transportation's Open Restaurants Program told the City Council that outdoor dining structures won't be allowed to remain after the COVID-19 pandemic.

February 17, 2022 update, **Erik Bottcher** (District 3) wrote in an email, "The zoning text amendment that the City Council will be voting on next week is \*not\* the open restaurants bill that will determine whether or not there's a permanent program. That is separate legislation that will be negotiated in the coming weeks... The great news is that the 'sheds' have already been ruled out of any potential future program... Now there are other important details to work out, including what 'tables and chairs' will look like, hours of operation, etc. This will be negotiated in the coming weeks and I'm partnering closely with Council Member Chris Marte, Council Member Gale Brewer and other colleagues on this. It's a tough and complicated issue but my goal is to get the best possible outcome for our community." (email of February 17, 2022)

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## Do you want more supertall skyscrapers in Murray Hill?

Gov. Hochul slipped legislation into her Executive Budget for FY 2023 that would remove the limitation on residential building height in New York City. The current allowed density for residential buildings statewide is 12 FAR (Floor Area Ratio - a technical zoning term). You can read about FAR on this page [www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/zoning/glossary.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/zoning/glossary.page). Below is the exact text in the Governor's budget. It is easy to think that these are all desirable goals, and who wouldn't want more affordable housing, but the devil is in the details. The bullet point about "density" is the one that could open up a Pandora's Box of development, especially in prime neighborhoods like Murray Hill.

### The FY 2023 Governor's Executive Budget (New York State)

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy23/ex/book/briefingbook.pdf>

Here are the applicable sections of the budget on page 110 of the Executive budget.

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**Expand Housing Supply.** Housing costs continue to rise throughout the state, exacerbated by inadequate housing supply. To improve housing affordability and availability, the Budget advances legislation to expand the State’s housing supply, as follows.

~~(taken out) Bolster Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)—Require municipalities to allow a minimum of one ADU on owner-occupied residentially zoned lots.~~

**Spur Transit-Oriented Development**—Allow dense multifamily construction in zones around rail transit stops within commuting distance to New York City.

**Allow Appropriate Density**—Repeal of the statutory limitation on the maximum density of the residential area of buildings in New York City, authorizing the City to allow for denser residential development where appropriate.

**Encourage Hotel Conversions**—Allow any Class B hotel located within or near a residential zoning district in New York City to use the existing certificate of occupancy to convert to permanent residences, as long as the units are subject to applicable rent stabilization laws and agreements. Alterations must follow regulations for Class B hotels.

**Create Affordable Neighborhoods**—The Budget establishes the Affordable Neighborhoods for New Yorkers program to provide for the development of much needed affordable housing in New York City

Village Preservation (an activist preservation group) has put together a letter opposing the lifting of the cap on the density of residential buildings in NYC, and this group feels that doing it through the Budget is not appropriate. This letter can be emailed to government officials with a click of a button (see link below to the page that explains the issue with the link to the letter that can be emailed), and you can edit the text if you don't like their wording. **Opposing Gov. Hochul’s Proposal to Allow Supersized Development in NYC Neighborhoods** [villagepreservation.org/campaign-update/opposing-gov-hochuls-proposal-to-allow-supersized-development-in-nyc-neighborhoods](https://villagepreservation.org/campaign-update/opposing-gov-hochuls-proposal-to-allow-supersized-development-in-nyc-neighborhoods).

**Email from State Senator Liz Krueger, February 10, 2022**

I strongly oppose removing the FAR cap and am working to get this proposal by the Governor removed from the budget.

Liz Krueger

The MHNA letter opposing lifting NYC’s 12 FAR [murrayhillnyc.org/photos/News/MHNA\\_ltr\\_FAR\\_Gov\\_Budget\\_20220211.pdf](https://murrayhillnyc.org/photos/News/MHNA_ltr_FAR_Gov_Budget_20220211.pdf).

The New York Landmarks Conservancy opposes lifting the NYC FAR [nylandmarks.org/news/dont-lift-the-cap](https://nylandmarks.org/news/dont-lift-the-cap).



***This massive plan coming from Albany does not have to follow NYC zoning rules, it will demolish several city blocks in Midtown for a new complex, and supertall skyscrapers will be erected that far exceed current allowable height for Midtown.***

**February 22 5pm (deadline for comments)**

**Empire State Development Proposed Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project (formerly known as The Empire Station Complex Civic and Land Use Improvement Project)**

See public documents on ESD's website at: [esd.ny.gov/empire-station-complex](https://esd.ny.gov/empire-station-complex). ***Comments on the General Project Plan and the revisions proposed by ESD staff and the DEIS are requested.***

Comments may be delivered in writing to ESD, 633 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017 (Attention: Stacey Teran), on or before 5pm on Tuesday, February 22, 2022; or sent by e-mail to [empirestation@esd.ny.gov](mailto:empirestation@esd.ny.gov) or [pennstationarea@esd.ny.gov](mailto:pennstationarea@esd.ny.gov), on or before 5pm on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Written or e-mailed comments received after 5pm on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 will not be considered.

**February 22 6pm**

**(virtual) Community Board 5, Landmarks Committee Meeting**

Agenda: Discussion of Historic Resources located in the ESD proposed GPP for Penn Station Area Redevelopment, and more. Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yoW5\\_yCHTTi1-Ae3KATL3Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yoW5_yCHTTi1-Ae3KATL3Q).

**February 24 6pm**

**(virtual) Community Board 5, Transportation & Environment Committee Meeting**

Agenda: Discussion on Penn Station expansion alternatives, and more. Register at [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rw0L1TD9RxCR1MPQAcRqcg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rw0L1TD9RxCR1MPQAcRqcg).

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

[Letter from the NYC Planning Commission](#) to the Empire State Development Corporation, January 27, 2022.

[Community Board 5 Resolution](#) regarding the Penn Station Empire Station Complex GPP DEIS.

**The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Preservation & Design Committee** sent a letter to Governor Hochul opposing the Penn Station area redevelopment plan that would demolish several blocks surrounding Penn Station. [Read the letter](#)

**(opinion) [Slam the brakes on state's Penn Station project](#)**

February 14, 2022, nydailynews.com, by State Senators Liz Krueger and Brad Hoylman  
The ESD board must not vote on this plan until it has done a proper public analysis of the project, given the community a chance to weigh in, filled in the blanks of how much this will cost taxpayers, negotiated how much revenue taxpayers receive from Vornado and reached an agreement with the city on what our residents get in return. We've asked for an analysis of this project from the Independent Budget Office. In the meantime, Mayor Adams and the City Council should be appalled. New Yorkers and commuters should be aghast. And most importantly, Gov. Hochul should continue correcting the mistakes of her predecessor by pumping the brakes on this runaway train.

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**(comments are still being accepted)**

**New York: MTA Central Business District Tolling Program (congestion pricing) proposal**

Learn more at the following websites:

Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) **Central Business District Tolling Program**

[new.mta.info/project/CBDTP](http://new.mta.info/project/CBDTP)

Department of Transportation (DOT)

[www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/dntwnbkfactsheet.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/dntwnbkfactsheet.pdf)

**If you would like to comment on the Congestion Pricing proposal:**

Online: Submit a comment at [mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/cbd\\_tolling](http://mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/cbd_tolling)

Email: [CBDTP@mtabt.org](mailto:CBDTP@mtabt.org)

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

Phone: 646-252-7440

Fax: 212-504-3148

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## How you can help

**Join a MHNA committee**

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[Learn more](#) about The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association committees. If you would like to join a committee please contact [info@murrayhillnyc.org](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org).

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**March 1 5pm (application deadline)**

### **Join a Community Board! The 2022 application is now open**

Community Boards are the voices of their communities—the most grass-roots form of local government. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and work to enhance and preserve the charter of the city’s many unique neighborhoods. Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms—thus, 25 members are appointed (or reappointed) each year. Learn more and apply at [manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/p2a2s130qjma1g](https://manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/p2a2s130qjma1g).

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### **Nationwide Blood Shortage**

The need for blood has never been higher. If you would like to donate blood, you can schedule an appointment with the New York Blood Center at [nybc.org/donate-blood/my-landing-page](https://nybc.org/donate-blood/my-landing-page). Two locations in the neighborhood:

**Grand Central Donor Center**, Chanin Building, 115 East 41st Street, 800-933-2566.

**NYPD 13th Precinct** (mobile blood donor center), 230 East 21st Street, 212-477-7411.

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## **Upcoming events**

**February 21**

### **@NYPDCadets orientation for the NYPD Cadet Corps**

This is a paid internship that provides qualified college students with a chance to experience a career within the NYPD. For more info visit [NYPDCadets.org](https://NYPDCadets.org).

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**February 22 - 25**

**Kids Week: Skate, create, and participate in an array of kid-friendly activities**

Most programs are designed for kids ages 4-6, but all ages are welcomed. Learn more at [bryantpark.org/programs/kids-week](http://bryantpark.org/programs/kids-week). See the map [bryantpark.org/the-park#park-map](http://bryantpark.org/the-park#park-map).

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**February 22 6:30pm**

**(virtual) Midtown South Precinct Community Council Monthly Meeting**

Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, is scheduled to attend this month's meeting to discuss on-going public safety and quality-of-life issues, crime and significant public safety concerns specific to the Midtown South Precinct Service Area. Please join them for this important conversation. Join Zoom Meeting [us02web.zoom.us/j/87842989359](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87842989359), Meeting ID: 878 4298 9359, Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Crime Prevention Officer Frank Aliperti

Community Affairs Officer Edward McDonald

Community Affairs Officer Brian Kelly

Community Affairs Officer Thomas Brynes

Commanding Officer, Inspector Robert W O'Hare

Hosted by Midtown South Precinct Community Council interim Co-Presidents Serge Harnett & Brian Weber.

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**February 22 6 - 7:30 pm**

**Madison Square Park Conservancy hosts: Artists on their Art Education.**

(free) Join artists Leilah Babirye, Alex Da Corte, Hugh Hayden, Hannah Levy, and Kathleen Ryan as they reflect on the impact of their art education on their practices. By sharing first-hand accounts, the artists contribute to larger conversations surrounding equity in art education. The conversation is moderated by Jon Kessler. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/story-circle-artists-on-their-art-education-tickets-261959868017](https://eventbrite.com/e/story-circle-artists-on-their-art-education-tickets-261959868017).

at Sony Square NYC

25 Madison Avenue

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**February 23 11am - 3pm**

**Breaking Ground in-person Job Fair this Wednesday**

February 23 11am - 3pm

Breaking Ground in-person Job Fair this Wednesday

Breaking Ground, an organization for the homeless providing housing, programs and services, is hosting a job fair. Proof of full vaccination required to attend, business attire, bring copies of your resume. All Breaking Ground employees, interns, volunteers, and subcontractors are required to be vaccinated and provide a one-time verification of immunization as a condition of employment. Individuals that have a medical consideration or sincerely held religious beliefs or practices that could prevent them from complying with the Vaccine Mandate may request a reasonable accommodation. Breaking Ground is committed to fostering a supportive and challenging environment for professional and personal development and was named one of the best companies to work for in New York State by the Society for Human Resources Management. They offer a competitive benefits package. Learn more at [breakingground.org/careers](http://breakingground.org/careers).

at The Prince George

15 East 27th Street (between 5th and Madison Avenues)

New York, NY 10016

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**February 23 12pm (next session)**

**(virtual, 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.

**February 23 12pm** Annuities

**March 2 12pm** Trust in Your Trust- Part 1 Wills & Trusts 101

**March 9 12pm** Trust in Your Trust Part 2- Wills & Trusts 102

Learn more and register at [nypl.org/node/608188](http://nypl.org/node/608188). Presented by the New York Public Library's Thomas Yoseloff Business Center, in partnership with the Museum of American Finance. 455 Fifth Avenue (40th Street), Fifth Floor, 212-340-0863.

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[February 23 Noon - 1pm](#)

[March 9 Noon - 1pm](#)

[April 13 Noon - 1pm](#)

[\*\*Governor Hochul Announces New Resources to Aid Workers with Long-Haul COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Claims\*\*](#)

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Those with a work-related injury or illness have two years from the date of becoming injured or ill to file a workers' compensation claim, so the deadline is approaching for workers who contracted COVID-19 due to their employment in the early days of the pandemic. Filing a claim is important because workers' compensation benefits in an established claim include lifetime medical care for the treatment of the work-related injury or illness. Even workers who have had a good outcome after COVID-19 can file a claim to protect their future rights to these medical benefits, should they ever need them. Workers should know that while not all claims will be accepted, there is no risk or harm in filing a claim, even if it ends up getting denied.

**Free informational webinars.** Participants do not need to register in advance, and can join the sessions via the links above, which will also be accessible through the Board's dedicated COVID-19 webpage at [wcb.ny.gov/covid-19](http://wcb.ny.gov/covid-19).

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**February 23 7:30pm**

### **(virtual) The Future of Multiracial America**

In the 2020 census, approximately 33 million people (around one in 10) responded that they identify as more than one race. With multiracial Americans now the fastest growing demographic, what are the implications for New York City and beyond? Featuring: Richard Alba, distinguished professor of sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center and author of *The Great Demographic Illusion: Majority, Minority, and the Expanding American Mainstream*; Jenifer Bratter, professor of sociology at Rice University and co-editor of *Unmaking Race*; Lurie Daniel Favors, executive director at the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College and host of *The Lurie Daniel Favors Show* on Sirius XM's *Urban View*; and Michael Li, senior counsel for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law. Moderated by John Mollenkopf, distinguished professor of political science and sociology and director of the Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center. Presented by The Graduate Center, CUNY with the Center for Urban Research. Register at [gc.cuny.edu/events/future-multi-racial-america](http://gc.cuny.edu/events/future-multi-racial-america).

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**February 24      Last day to submit artwork for The Flag Project**

**April 1 - May 6      Flags on display for Earth Day**

**April 22 Earth Day** [earthday.org/earth-day-2022](http://earthday.org/earth-day-2022)

**June 5              Flags back on display for World Environment Day**

The Climate Museum is collaborating with Rockefeller Center and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a series of Earth Day initiatives that prioritize a global call to climate action. Artists of all descriptions, professional or not, are invited to submit original art on the environment and climate action! Winning designs will be selected by the Climate Museum and UNEP, developed into eco-friendly biodegradable flags, and displayed on one of the 193 flagpoles that surround Rockefeller Plaza. Interested artists can submit mixed-medium artwork that celebrates "Only One Earth," the theme for this year's World Environment Day [worldenvironmentday.global](http://worldenvironmentday.global), showcasing an appreciation for the environment, how to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and the daily steps you take towards positive climate action. The Flag Project has routinely featured both well-

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known professional artists and creators new to public display. Learn more and Submit a flag design [rockefellercenter.com/events/flag-project-2022](https://rockefellercenter.com/events/flag-project-2022).

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**February 24 1 - 4pm**

**(virtual summit) The Future of Construction in NY**

Developing and Enhancing Construction Systems and Programs Throughout New York. As the world changed with the pandemic, the construction sector changed with it. There's been a rising cost in raw materials with a drop in construction filings and labor sourcing. The new infrastructure bill has a great effect on development activity. This event will bring together experts across sectors to assess the current state of New York's construction systems, break down recent legislative actions, and look towards the future of all things coming up and going on in New York. Hear from government officials and industry leaders to assess the current state of construction systems, break down recent legislation & look toward the future of all things coming up & going on in New York! Panels: The Public-Private Partnerships Bringing Projects to Life in New York, Plans for Infrastructure and Buildings for a Diverse NY, Rebuilding NYC: New Developments for Economic Recovery. (free) Register at [cityandstateny.com/feature/Future-of-Construction-in-New-York-Summit](https://cityandstateny.com/feature/Future-of-Construction-in-New-York-Summit).

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**through February 24 (grant application deadline)**

**Manhattan Borough President's capital funding grants**

The full application for capital funding grants is now open for City of New York entities and nonprofits. Apply through the grant portal system [grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=manhattanborough](https://grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=manhattanborough). Learn more about the grants and eligibility at [manhattanbp.nyc.gov/funding/capital-funding](https://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/funding/capital-funding). If you have questions, contact Vanessa Diaz-Lopez ([vdiaz-lopez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:vdiaz-lopez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-4814) or Nelson S. Andino ([nandino@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:nandino@manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-8145).

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**February 24 6:30pm**

**(virtual) Manhattan Community Board 6 - Business Affairs & Licensing Committee Meeting**

Agenda: Renewal On Premises license for MDO Development Corp. doing business as The Water Club at 500 East 30th Street, New On Premises License for New York Luxury Cruise Inc. at 2430 FDR Drive, Class Change of an existing license for Rojava LLC doing business as Sahara's Turkish Cuisine at 513 2nd Avenue, Continuation of Discussion on the NYC Open Restaurants Program, and more. See full agenda and register at [zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_w5dssu-NQA2vndp9h6lFMg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w5dssu-NQA2vndp9h6lFMg).

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**February 26 11am**

**(virtual) Conversation on Memory Loss and Alzheimer's disease**

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The Church of the Covenant Faith Health and Wellness Ministry invites health care providers, patients, caregivers, family members and the community to a conversation on Memory loss and Alzheimer's disease. Hear from experts in the field of memory loss on the challenges and opportunities, learn about innovative programs, resources and a tool-kit. Zoom link for this event [us02web.zoom.us/j/4894157954?pwd=bFdKZlhUcWpFWkRPRmtiTjhoclJRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4894157954?pwd=bFdKZlhUcWpFWkRPRmtiTjhoclJRdz09), Meeting ID: 489 415 7954, Password: 542954, One tap mobile +19292056099,,4894157954#,,1#,542954# US (New York). [Register for the webinar](#). For more information please contact [bjiedmonds54@gmail.com](mailto:bjiedmonds54@gmail.com). The Church of the Covenant is located at: 310 East 42nd Street, 212-697-3185, [info@ChurchoftheCovenantNYC.com](mailto:info@ChurchoftheCovenantNYC.com) [facebook.com/CovenantChurchNYC](https://facebook.com/CovenantChurchNYC) [cocnyc.org](https://cocnyc.org).

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**through February 27 (extended)**

### **[NYC Broadway Week](#)**

2-for-1 tickets to some of the best musicals and plays on stage right now. Prefer to splurge? Opt for upgraded seats at \$125 per ticket.

### **[NYC Off-Broadway Week](#)**

2-for-1 Tickets

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**February 28 4 – 6pm**

### **(virtual) Rat Academy Training**

Join rat academy training, sponsored by Pest Control Services at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to learn about rat prevention methods. The training is free and is for building supers and staff, homeowners and tenants, and managing companies. It is offered throughout the year. For more information or to request additional accommodation, email [ratportal@health.nyc.gov](mailto:ratportal@health.nyc.gov). [Learn more and register](#).

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**February 28 7pm**

### **Community Board 6 Land Use & Waterfront Committee Meeting**

Update from the Department of Design and Construction on the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR), discussion of racial impact studies as part of the land use process, update on the work of CB6's Community Planning Fellow, and more. [Register to join the meeting via Zoom](#). [Meeting agenda](#).

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**through February 28 Middle School applications**  
**through March 11 High School applications (extended)**  
**ongoing Elementary School, 3K and EarlyLearn enrollment**  
**Kindergarten applications are now closed.**

### **NYC Public School applications**

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 [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov), at [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade) and at MySchools NYC [myschools.nyc/en](https://myschools.nyc/en) (other languages are available), by phone at 718-935-2009 or at a Family Welcome Center [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers). EarlyLearn is for toddlers to 2 years old and is available for eligible families. Learn more at [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc). If you missed Kindergarten enrollment for your child, contact [myschools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) to find out what your options are.

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**February 28 11:59pm ET (entry deadline)**

### **The Cooper Hewitt 2022 National High School Design Competition**

A challenge to high school students around the country to join in envisioning the future we want to live in and designing for a more peaceful and just world. The design competition is open to all teens ages 13 through 19 who are high school students in grades 9 through 12, or who are homeschooled students working toward a high school degree anywhere in the United States. You can enter as an individual or as a team of up to three people. Learn more and enter the competition at [cooperhewitt.org/design-competition-design-challenge](https://cooperhewitt.org/design-competition-design-challenge).

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**February 28 5pm (deadline for submissions)**

### **HeARTwork Against Hate, an art contest for students in grades 3-12**

The Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) *HeARTwork Against Hate Contest* is an initiative for New York City students in grades 3-12 to use artistic expression as an outlet to show respect and stand up for others. It gives youth an opportunity to take a stand against all forms of bias, discrimination, and hate and use their creativity to communicate the positive values that make NYC great. Learn more about the rules and prizes for HeARTwork Against Hate at [www1.nyc.gov/site/stophate/resources/heartwork.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/stophate/resources/heartwork.page).

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**March 1 (application deadline)**

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## Enhanced STAR property tax exemption

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today reminded seniors that the deadline to apply for greater property tax savings through the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption is March 1. To be eligible for the 2022 Enhanced STAR property tax exemption, seniors must: currently receive the Basic STAR property tax exemption; have one owner of the property who will be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2022; and have had 2020 income equal to or below \$92,000. The New York City Department of Finance (DOF) website provides eligibility information about Basic Star and Enhanced Star and links to submit your application online. Please visit the DOF website at [www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-star.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-star.page).

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**March 2 5pm ([Jane's Walk orientation event](#))**

**March 31 (apply to lead a Jane's Walk event)**

**May 6-8 Jane's Walk**

## Municipal Art Society (MAS) Jane's Walk

MAS annual Jane's Walk festival. This volunteer-led celebration of urban life, inspired by activist Jane Jacobs, has always been a time to come together and share our love for this city. This year, Jane's Walk NYC will feature a variety of virtual and socially distanced formats, including in-person guided group walks, self-guided in-person walks, virtual talks, social media activations, and more. In-person and virtual experiences generate conversation about the city and celebrate its vibrant past, present, and future! Who can lead a Jane's Walk? You can! **The 2022 submission form is now live through March 31.** On March 2 at 5:00 PM, we are hosting an orientation event for anyone interested in being part of this year's festival. [Jane's Walk website](#). [Training Guide](#). [Submit a walk](#).

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**March 4 10 - 11am**

## (virtual) Housing Forum

Join City & State and AARP for a virtual forum to discuss New York's housing crisis with key state legislators. With many struggling to stay in their homes or find available housing options, the speakers will address important policy solutions including a statewide right-to-counsel law for tenants facing eviction, policies to allow accessory dwelling units, and more. [Register for free](#) to hear the latest directly from your lawmakers.

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# Changes in the neighborhood

## The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association supports Open Street on 36<sup>th</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Tunnel Approach

Letter from MHNA President, Diane Bartow to the NYC Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Gorman,

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We are writing to you in support of including E 36<sup>th</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Tunnel Approach Street in the New York City Department of Transportation's Open Streets Program.

This street was utilized as an Open Street for multiple weekends in 2021, where community members participated in a variety of recreational activities, from youth sports to arts and crafts. Children were able to learn how to ride bicycles and had the opportunity to meet and learn from the local fire department.

There is a lot of opportunity to expand programming, in partnership with local organizations, throughout the upcoming year.

The neighborhood also has a shortage of open spaces in this area, do to the ongoing renovations at St. Vartan Park.

Therefore, the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is asking you to approve this Open Street application.

Thank you.

Diane G. Bartow  
President  
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association



*Conceptual rendering of 'Galleries and Gardens'; Park Avenue Malls at East 53rd Street - Rendering by Maison*

## [New York City Council Reveals Next Phase Of Park Avenue Malls Redesign In Midtown East, Manhattan](#)

January 24, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

An 11-block stretch of Park Avenue in Midtown East may soon be transformed into a corridor of experiential galleries and venue spaces. According to New York City Council member Keith Powers, transformation of the Park Avenue Malls, a series of enclosed green spaces and traffic medians between 46th and 57th Streets along the avenue, is set to proceed to the next phase of project planning. This includes the retention of a landscape architect to create a master plan for project. As part of the plan, the city will issue a request for proposal to hire a landscape architect who will create a master plan for the project. Funding will be provided by the East Midtown Governing Group. The request for proposals from landscape architects and private stakeholders is expected to be issued in spring 2022.

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## **(policy)** [What is Midtown's post-pandemic recovery playbook?](#)

February 14, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Annie McDonough

The much-hyped return to in-person work office in New York City has not gone as planned...some workers and companies aren't sure if they're ready to go back—or if they ever will be. The New York City comptroller's office found...that time spent in workplaces was down 29% from pre-pandemic levels...In midtown Manhattan, an area overwhelmingly reliant on commercial and tourist activity, it's not just office buildings that have emptied out. A report last fall from the Real Estate Board of New York found that nearly 30% of storefronts in the office-dependent retail corridors of Midtown East and around Grand Central were unoccupied as of last summer...The idea of turning Midtown into a so-called "live-work-play" neighborhood is one that makes sense on the surface. Residential neighborhoods already border the business district, and transit hubs and cultural centers like Broadway serve as local and international attractions...If Midtown is going to reinvent itself, it might have to write its own playbook...Conversions in Midtown today would have their own problems. Among other restrictions, local zoning does not allow buildings built after 1961 to be converted into residences. In her executive budget, Gov. Kathy Hochul proposed steps to make those conversions easier, including by allowing commercial to residential conversions in pre-1980 buildings, including in Midtown, through 2027..."I think if you're going to add the element of affordability, you absolutely need a subsidy for that," said Mary Ann Tighe, CEO of the New York Tri-State Region of CBRE, a real estate firm...New York City Council Member Keith Powers, who represents Midtown, said it was too soon to predict the area's real estate needs. Still, there's value in diversifying. "Certainly, it makes sense to look at ways to loosen up and make Midtown more flexible in the way that we use it."

## **Related: (opinion) Hybrid work is here to stay: The workforce is moving on**

After two years of lockdowns, the notion of spending Mondays to Fridays commuting into the office appears all but over. The likes of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and HSBC Holdings are embracing hybrid working divided between home and headquarters, while Citigroup is spending over 100 million pounds (\$136 million) revamping its London skyscraper so it's fit for today's flexible working patterns. At the furthest end of the spectrum, fintech companies such as Revolut and Eigen Technologies have agreed to let their staff work from their kitchen desks permanently. Firms and managers toying with a full-time return face an uncomfortable reality, experts say: Without significant pay incentives that only the richest firms can offer, staff are increasingly likely to look

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elsewhere. And with city house prices sky-high and workers keen to spend more time with their families, a return to pre-pandemic habits looks unlikely.  
Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email, February 12, 2022

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## Elections & voting

### [Hochul overwhelmingly wins convention vote to be party's nominee for governor](#)

February 17, 2022, *nystateofpolitics.com*, by Luke Parsnow and Zack Fink  
[Jumaane] Williams plans to gather signatures now to get onto the ballot, and Hochul's other opponent, Congressman Tom Suozzi, did not even submit his name for the nomination, and will also attempt to petition his way on. The process for candidates to petition their way into the ballot begins March 1. That will determine whether Hochul faces any opposition in the June primary. She will definitely have an opponent in the November general election.

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### [Hochul Leads Pack of Candidates Who Fail to Disclose Sources of Corporate Cash](#)

February 9, 2022, *nysfocus.com*, by Sam Mellins  
A 2019 reform following corruption scandals was supposed to cap political donations and unveil the people behind companies giving cash. Records show it hasn't.

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### [New York City Council Redistricting Process Set to Kick Off](#)

February 06, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid  
The New York City Council is set to kick off the process of redrawing the boundaries of the city's 51 Council districts on Monday with Council members appointing eight members to a redistricting commission. The new districts, reflective of data from the 2020 Census and other factors, will be at play for the 2023 elections when all 51 seats of the City Council will again be on the ballot.

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## Schools and students

**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. Eighty-eight positive tests were reported since September 2020 (66 students, 22 staff). Three positive tests in the last 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=516. Ninety-six positive tests were reported since September (34 students, 12 staff). Two new positive tests in the past 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=299. Twenty-five positive tests since September. No new positive tests in the last 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [J.H.S 104 Simon Baruch](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=1,108. One hundred seventy-four positive cases since September (167 students, 7 staff). Four new positive tests in the past 14 days.

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### **[Home schooling nearly doubled in NYC during the pandemic](#)**

February 17, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Amy Zimmer and Alex Zimmerman

Mirroring trends across the nation, the number of children being home-schooled has dramatically increased in New York City. This school year, roughly 14,800 children across the five boroughs have opted to learn outside of school walls.

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### **[NYC DOE to spend \\$323M to prop up school budgets as enrollment drops](#)**

February 15, 2022, *nypost.com*, by Selim Algar

The Department of Education has allocated well over a quarter billion dollars to cover gaping school budget deficits tied to ongoing student enrollment declines.

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# Policing & police reform

## Weekly crime reports

### 17th precinct

[www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime\\_statistics/cs-en-us-017pct.pdf](http://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](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-013pct.pdf)

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## Housing, homelessness, zoning & affordability

### [Mayor's Budget Plan Cuts \\$615M from Homeless Services, as Subway Crackdown Intensifies](#)

February 18, 2022, *citylimits.org*, David Brand

Service providers have urged the city to hire more workers to help move people more quickly out of shelter or public spaces and into permanent housing. New York City's homeless services agency would see a fifth of its operating budget and 131 unfilled positions slashed under Mayor Eric Adams' \$98 billion spending plan, even as a new aggressive effort to drive unhoused New Yorkers out of the subway system gets underway. Adams' first preliminary budget, released Wednesday, would lower Department of Homeless Services (DHS) spending from around \$2.8 billion to \$2.15 billion in the 2023 fiscal year, due mostly to loss of about \$500 million in COVID-related federal funding allocated to the agency, budget documents show. The city would also direct less money to adult shelters in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1...The capital budget for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) would mirror the total allocated by Adams' predecessor, Mayor Bill de Blasio, with \$1.7 billion proposed for 2023 followed by \$1.5 billion in 2024 and \$1.3 billion in 2025.

### [Related: New York City housing advocates 'extremely disappointed' by Eric Adams' budget](#)

February 18, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Sara Dorn

Multiple advocacy groups said Adams' preliminary budget released Wednesday did not meet his housing campaign promises...Multiple housing advocacy groups released statements lamenting Adams' failure to meet their demands for additional rental assistance and funding for capital projects, among other initiatives..."As a candidate, Mayor Adams promised to spend \$4 billion a year on housing because he knows that affordable housing significantly improves lives, creates jobs, and makes fiscal sense in the short and long-term."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In a press briefing on February 18, Gov. Hochul promised funding for affordable and supportive housing in the State budget.

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## [Hochul has pulled her budget proposal to require local governments to accept an expansion of apartments and backyard cottages in single-family neighborhoods as a way to combat a statewide crisis in affordable housing](#)

(paywall)

February 17, 2022, *newsday.com*, by Michael Gormley

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## [Brewing fight in Albany over controversial tax break signals an uncertain future for the housing program](#)

February 9, 2022, *politico.com*, by Janaki Chadha

Critics include city Comptroller Brad Lander, who called the program an “obscene tax giveaway” in a statement on the governor’s proposal last month. Meanwhile Mayor Eric Adams supports the governor’s plan...[Gov. Kathy Hochul’s] proposal would replace the current iteration of the housing allowance known as 421-a...The program...offers tax incentives to developers in exchange for affordable housing...“This might be the fourth reform rendition of 421-a I have lived through, and it never gets better as a program,” state Sen. Liz Krueger, chair of the body’s finance committee, said in an interview. “I would be fine with just letting the program expire.”...Hochul’s proposed replacement would give developers of rental buildings a 35-year property tax exemption, while requiring them to set aside a portion of new apartments for low- and middle-income households. It would lower the upper threshold for what is considered “affordable” housing when compared to the current iteration, and require that income-restricted apartments created through the program remain affordable permanently. The current program is slated to expire on June 15...criticism that Hochul’s proposal would not address the root problems cited in the current program, namely that it’s too costly and produces too little legitimately affordable housing.

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## [Adams and Hochul have a new plan to reduce homelessness on NYC subways](#)

February 18, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Zach Williams

[A] new plan unveiled Friday by the governor and New York City Mayor Eric Adams could provide some relief while helping hundreds of people with mental illnesses access social services in the process...Police will increase patrols with outreach workers who aim to place homeless people in transitional housing. A total of 600 new psychiatric beds and 500 new supportive housing slots will come online with the help of roughly \$40 million in state funding, according to Hochul. “We need to talk about what’s involved in removal and commitment for the highest need individuals,” she added about seeking unspecified regulatory changes to Kendra’s Law, a state law that provides a legal mechanism to force people with mental illness to receive treatment. Subway riders will also have to exit trains once they reach the end of the line...“It will do nothing to get people with mental illness the help they need unless it also comes with increase in inpatient psych beds, appropriate outpatient treatment and supportive housing,” a person involved in current outreach efforts told City

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& State...A few thousand people typically sleep on city streets and the subway system on any given night, according to past city surveys, while the vast majority of homeless people live in emergency housing provided by the city as required by a 1979 court case...City officials are vowing to crack down on a range of behaviors in the subway system, including laying across multiple seats and bringing oversized shopping carts onto trains...“We need to look at how we’re doing the housing because if a person has severe mental health issues, they shouldn’t just be automatically placed in any shelter,” Adams said. So-called safe haven and stabilization beds, which connect people with social services while giving them more flexibility than traditional shelters, would be respectively increased by 140 and 350 beds, according to the new plan. Psychiatric facilities will also get a boost in state reimbursements to incentivize them to treat more people. Those who appear to present dangers to either themselves or others could be forced to accept treatment under Kendra’s Law, which Adams wants the state to consider changing in a few different ways. Nurse practitioners could stand in for psychiatrists in court and more emphasis could be placed on how substance abuse and mental illness intersect, according to the new plan.

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### [When Private Equity Becomes Your Landlord](#)

February 7, 2022, *propublica.org*, by Heather Vogell

Amid a national housing crisis, giant private equity firms have been buying up apartment buildings en masse to squeeze them for profit, with the help of government-backed Freddie Mac. Meanwhile, tenants say they’re the ones paying the price.

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## Elections & voting

### **Hochul Designated for Governor at State Democratic Party Convention, Securing Place on Primary Ballot**

Gov. Kathy Hochul got 86% of the vote for Governor at the Democrats' State Convention. Jumaane Williams, who received 12% of the votes, did not receive the 25% required minimum of votes to be placed on the ballot. Tom Suozzi did not put his name in as a candidate at the convention. legislative staffer Paul Nichols, received 2%. The alternative way to get on the Primary Election ballot is by petitioning.

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## Budget, finances & taxes

### **File Your Taxes with NYC Free Tax Prep**

Changes to tax credits mean more money for New Yorkers when they file! Earned Income Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit. Child and Dependent Care Credit. Claiming even one could return thousands of dollars to families and individuals in 2022. NYC Department of Consumer

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and Worker Protection (DCWP) is excited to coordinate the City's Annual Tax Season Initiative. We're even more excited to collaborate with you to help. For more information about NYC Free Tax Prep services and eligibility for tax credits, visit [nyc.gov/taxprep](https://nyc.gov/taxprep). Eligible New Yorkers use NYC Free Tax Prep to file for free and keep their whole refund.

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**Press release: [Mayor Eric Adams Releases Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, February 16, 2022](#)**

**[February 2022 NYC Financial Plan, Fiscal Years 2022 - 2026](#)**

**Related: [Statement from NYC Comptroller Brad Lander on Mayor Adams' FY 23 Preliminary Budget](#)**

February 16, 2022

**Related: ['Laser-Focused on Fiscal Discipline': Mayor Adams Presents First Budget Plan](#)**

February 16, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

Mayor Eric Adams on Wednesday released a \$98.5 billion preliminary budget proposal for the 2023 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The plan makes for a reduction in spending of about \$4.3 billion compared to the last modification of the current fiscal year 2022 budget in November by Adams' predecessor, Bill de Blasio. With his first budget proposal, Adams outlined cost-cutting measures at city agencies, added funds to the city's reserves, and made investments in public safety, summer youth employment, transit discounts for low-income New Yorkers, child care, and more. The budget plan will now become the subject of a series of preliminary budget hearings held by the City Council as well as evaluation by others, including city Comptroller Brad Lander, leading to the mayor's executive budget iteration, more Council hearings, negotiations, and eventually an adopted city budget. That spending plan will be influenced by the new state budget due by April 1, as well as other factors like tax receipts and more.

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**[Adams scraps expansion of organics recycling, despite campaign promise](#)**

February 17, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jake Offenhartz

Mayor Eric Adams is halting a planned expansion of New York City's curbside organic recycling program, arguing that low participation does not justify the expense.

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**[Progressives want to invest in child care like it's Tesla](#)**

February 17, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Zach Williams

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Progressives are targeting a key part of the state approach to economic development—billions of dollars in state subsidies and tax breaks – that they say could be better spent on social programs like universal child care...The \$216 billion state budget unveiled by the governor weeks ago includes a number of proposals that aim to help the state recover from the damage caused by COVID-19 by helping businesses first...“New York lawmakers have an opportunity to address several huge and urgent problems with a single step: direct a big chunk of current “economic development” spending away from ineffective corporate subsidies and toward investments in early childhood education,” reads the budget testimony submitted by economist Art Rolnick, who has studied the efficacy of economic development programs of other states like Minnesota. “This bold investment would expand economic opportunity, help working parents, reduce crime and achieve a great return on public spending.”...The Hochul administration is promising to spend public money more wisely than past administrations by establishing a proposed Office of Workforce and Economic Development within Empire State Development...The governor has until Feb. 17 to submit 30-day amendments to the budget she officially proposed last month. Lawmakers will then approve their one-house budget proposals before negotiations with the executive branch leading up to an April 1 deadline.

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**State Comptroller Thomas di Napoli**  
**New York State Fiscal Year 2022-23 Executive Budget Review**  
[osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/budget/pdf/executive-budget-review-2022-23.pdf](https://osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/budget/pdf/executive-budget-review-2022-23.pdf)

**[New York City Comptroller Brad Lander Delivers Testimony on the Proposed FY 2023 State Budget](#)**

February 9, 2022

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**[After ‘astonishing’ rollout, mobile betting in NY faces a budget season challenge](#)**

Gambling companies have indicated they will continue fighting for a lower tax rate.

February 18, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Sara Dorn

New York officials celebrated a \$70 million tax windfall from mobile sports betting this week, and revenue figures released Friday show the newly legalized games continued to rake it in during Super Bowl week. While Gov. Kathy Hochul’s office touted the figures as a “record-breaking success,” a battle with gambling companies over the 51% tax rate on betting revenue looms over the upcoming state budget negotiations...sports gambling was allowed to legally begin on Jan. 8. Since then, mobile sports betting companies collected \$154 million in revenue through Feb. 13, the New York State Gaming Commission reported Friday, equating to \$78 million in taxes for the state and far exceeding the state’s \$48 million projection for the fiscal year ending March 31...Most of that money will go toward education, per a constitutional amendment adopted by voters in 1967 that established the New York State Lottery and requires a portion of lottery proceeds to fund schools. One percent of the funds collected in the current fiscal year will also be used for programs to help problem gamblers, and 1% will go to youth education programs.

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## [How New York bankrolls horse racing with billions](#)

February 18, 2022, *timesunion.com*, by Emile Munson

All but three of New York's horse racing tracks would likely close without subsidies provided by the state, a recent study found.

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

## **Warehouses popping up in commercial spaces.**

[Source: NYC Council Member Gale Brewer's email of 2/17/2022]

It's a global phenomenon, as this New York Times story explains, [Will Rapid Grocery Delivery Change N.Y.C.? Look to Berlin](#). These venture capital-backed rapid delivery services are changing our streetscape and pose long-term risks of business displacement; their business models are unsustainable and must be looked at closely. CM Gale Brewer, head of the Oversight Committee, has pledged to ensure they are regulated and held accountable. Contact [district6@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district6@council.nyc.gov) if you want to help identify and activate vacant storefronts.

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## [Who's Watching the Powerful: The Bureaus Tasked With Keeping Officials in Check](#)

February 17, 2022, *thecity.nyc*, by Rachel Holliday Smith

A number of agencies, boards and committees look out for corruption and malfeasance in municipal life but their investigation and enforcement powers vary.

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## **Save the U.S. Postal Service!**

Source: Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney's Weekly Update email of February 18, 2022.

[Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney] stood with union leaders to applaud the passage of her bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives last week...This bill...not only saves the Postal Service over 50 billion dollars, but will also help local newspapers and magazines survive the transition to the digital age, secures 6-day a week delivery service for all of us, protects the health and retirement benefits of postal workers—all while actually saving the federal government \$1.5 billion dollars. And on Monday, she spoke at a Subcommittee on Government Operations' hearing...As we all know well, the Postal Service...is so important that our nation's Founders included it in the Constitution, so it's fair to say that the Postal Service is woven into the very fabric of our country. It provides service across the

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country to every single address—from rural farms to urban skyscrapers—and it adds over a million new delivery points every year. It binds our nation together in the way that no other organization does...It is critical that the Postal Service addresses this poor performance as soon as possible to ensure every American receives reliable, on-time delivery of critical mail, medications, and other essential resources.

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### **Sen. Hoylman works to increase resources for mental health**

This week [State Senator Brad Hoylman] got a commitment from the NYS Medicaid Director to apply for an 1115 Medicaid waiver which would allow the state to fund long term stays in large mental health institutions. This would help many New Yorkers that are struggling with their mental health and often end up on the streets without any help. Other states have this funding and so should we. We can help make our streets safe without relying solely on policing. [He will work] with the NYS Department of Health on the implementation.

Source: Senator Brad Hoylman update email of February 18, 2022

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## **Stories we are following**

### **Restoring Original Inscription on Portrait Monument [monument to women's suffrage] in the U.S. Capitol**

Source: Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney's Weekly Update email of February 18, 2022.

[Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney] introduced a resolution to restore the original inscription that appeared on the 'Portrait Monument,' the statue commemorating women's suffrage in the United States Capitol Rotunda, when it was first unveiled on February 15, 1921. [Excerpt of the resolution]

Whereas sculpted by Adelaide Johnson and originally referred to as the Memorial to the Pioneers of the Woman's Suffrage Movement, the monument includes busts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott, as well as an uncarved marble block as a reminder that the work of women gaining equality was not completed with the passage of the 19th amendment;

Whereas the original monument also included an inscription that read:

"Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, the three great destiny characters of the world whose spiritual import and historical significance transcend that of all others of any country or age.

"Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the call of that first woman's rights convention of 1848 initiated and Susan B. Anthony marshalling the latent forces through three generations down more than a half century of time guided the only fundamental universal uprising on our planet. The woman's revolution.

"Principle not policy; justice, not favor; men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less, was the clarion call to the most astounding upheaval of all time. A call which waked the world, signaled and inaugurated a revolution without tradition or precedent, and proclaimed the first incontrovertible concept of human freedom—that of individual liberty—personal responsibility, including women.

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“Woman, first denied a soul, then called mindless, now arisen declared herself an entity to be reckoned.

“This mightiest of revolutions encircling the globe accomplishing without bloodshed the overthrow of entrenched dogma and hoary bigotries reached to the farthest roots of being. Here indeed was the first, the only impeachable demand for right as might ever made.

“Spiritually the woman movement is the all-enfolding one. It represents the emancipation of womanhood. The release of the feminine principle in humanity. The moral integration of human evolution come to rescue torn and struggling humanity from its savage self.

“Historically these three stand unique and peerless.”;

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## Public service announcements

### What's the explanation for the sky-high Con Ed bills arriving this month?

[Councilmember Gale Brewer's email of 2/17/2022.]

ConEd bills have two main categories of "charges" (in addition to various taxes and fees): supply charges and delivery charges. "Delivery" charges pay for Con Ed's maintenance and expansion of the infrastructure required to transport electricity. Delivery charges are set by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC). The Public Service Commission approved a hike in 2020 that would take effect over three years, increasing bills by an average of about 13% by the end of this year compared to 2019. "Supply" charges are what Con Ed pays suppliers, and by law they do not mark this up. Supply rates fluctuate due to market factors. Many bills show supply charges have nearly TRIPLED. Why? About 70% of NYC electricity is produced using fossil fuels, and prices have risen due to geopolitical tension. Programs that may be helpful: NYS Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap) which helps low-income New Yorkers pay the cost of heating their homes. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, over age 60 or permanently disabled. Con Ed offers bill paying assistance options [coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance/help-paying-your-bill](https://coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance/help-paying-your-bill).

#### To file a complaint with the Public Service Commission:

[www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/755C4F39A58C924C85257B2F0067FCA5?OpenDocument](http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/755C4F39A58C924C85257B2F0067FCA5?OpenDocument) or call 1-800-342-3377

#### To offer comments to the Public Service Commission specific To ConEd rate increases:

[documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Comments/PublicComments.aspx?MatterCaseNo=22-E-0064](https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Comments/PublicComments.aspx?MatterCaseNo=22-E-0064)

#### Related: [The electric bill is too damn high: Here's why and what you can do about it](#)

February 19, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Danny Lewis

Governor Kathy Hochul has since called for Con Edison to reform its billing practices, and regulators at the Public Service Commission (PSC) say the utility company needs to better prepare its energy reserves—and its customers—for times when prices spike...The only options that you have are various types of actual renewable energy. If you can put solar panels on top of your house or your apartment building...A healthy portion of the utility bill is also made up of state-imposed taxes and fees, and it's unlikely Albany would roll back any of those...Con Ed representatives have said they

are taking steps to address rising energy costs and how that passes on to consumers...the utility is also currently requesting a rate increase from the state. Con Ed officials say the company needs more than \$1.2 billion to upgrade its energy and gas systems to be more resilient to climate change, deliver more power from renewable energy sources, and shore up transmission in the outer boroughs.

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## NYC's reopening

**New York State and NYC** reached the goal of a 70% vaccination rate for adults, and the community rate of infection, hospitalizations and deaths are low. As a result, most of the covid restrictions have been lifted. 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://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

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

**New York State reopening guidance for businesses** [forward.ny.gov](https://forward.ny.gov) and [governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS\\_CDCGuidance\\_Summary.pdf](https://governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf). Learn more at [forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance](https://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://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

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

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

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**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://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](https://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](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page) and **311** [portal.311.nyc.gov](https://portal.311.nyc.gov).

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**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](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page). Data taken on **February 18, 2022**.

**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
- **121.58** 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
- **121.58** new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days.

New York State COVID-19 tracker [forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard](https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard).

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## 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](https://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](https://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](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page) on February 18, 2022.

### Kips Bay/Murray Hill/NoMad

ZIP Code(s): 10016  
Estimated population: 50912.11

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99% with at least one dose  
54892 residents with at least 1 dose

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93.31% fully vaccinated  
47504 residents fully vaccinated

### East Midtown/Murray Hill

ZIP Code(s): 10017  
Estimated population: 15613.27

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99% with at least one dose  
20747 residents with at least 1 dose

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99% fully vaccinated  
16300 residents fully vaccinated

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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 free testing locations: [www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page), call 212-COVID19, or text COVID TEST to 855-48.

### For Murray Hill/Kips Bay

**Bellevue**, First Avenue at 26th Street, (free) no appointment necessary; wait times are unpredictable. Be sure that they set up your patient portal so that you can get your results quickly. Test results usually come back in 1-2 days.

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**IMPORTANT: There is still no cure for COVID-19. To stop the spread take a layered approach:**

- get vaccinated
- wear face coverings if you are unvaccinated or when you are with unvaccinated people
- maintain distance (6 feet between people if unvaccinated)
- practice good hand hygiene
- stay home if sick (seek care if you feel seriously ill)

When community rates of infection are high, limit non-essential activities, travel and indoor gatherings with people who are not in your household.

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See [murrayhillnyc.org](http://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](#)

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## **The NYC Citywide Information Portal**

[www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page) and 311 [portal.311.nyc.gov](http://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>.

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## **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](#)

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# 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 Member Erik Bottcher, Council District 3:** [council.nyc.gov/district-3](http://council.nyc.gov/district-3), 212-564-7757, [District3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District3@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)

**NYC Council Member Julie Menin, Council District 5:** [council.nyc.gov/julie-menin](http://council.nyc.gov/julie-menin), 212-788-6865, [District5@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District5@council.nyc.gov).

**Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine:** [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 Eric Adams:** [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)

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

**New York Senate website** [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov).

**New York State Assembly website** [nyassembly.gov](http://nyassembly.gov).

**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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming)

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**Governor Kathy Hochul**, New York State, [governor.ny.gov](https://governor.ny.gov), contact page on website [governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](https://governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

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

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

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

**U.S. President Joseph Biden:** website contact form: [whitehouse.gov/contact](https://whitehouse.gov/contact)  
The White House site [whitehouse.gov](https://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](https://whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions).

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