



Murray Hill

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

News for Murray Hill...January 2, 2023

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.

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

Welcome to our first MHNA newsletter of the New Year

Thank you for being a reader!

Thank you for being a MHNA member!

Not a member yet?

Make joining MHNA your New Year's resolution.

Join now...murrayhillnyc.org

Wishing all our friends and neighbors a healthy happy new year.

Transportation and traffic advisories

Please visit www.murrayhillnyc.org Traffic Change Updates section to see the work notices for public projects in the neighborhood: the 2nd Avenue (and surrounding areas) infrastructure replacement project, Pershing Square East, street closure notices, and more.

Mayor Adams Moves to Reimagine Fifth Avenue From Bryant Park to Central Park

Office of the Mayor, December 18, 2022

Building on Recent "New New York" Report and Incredibly Popular, Largest-Ever Holiday Season-Specific Open Street, Vision for Fifth Avenue Will Prioritize Pedestrians, Cyclists, Mass Transit, and the Public Realm...Planning Process Will Bring Together Unique Public-Private Partnership With Stakeholders Across East Midtown and Build on Years of Study of This Crucial Corridor.

'A NIMBY City Hall': Adams Appointees Thwart Key Bike and Bus Projects

October 17, 2022, *nyc.streetsblog.org*, by Jesse Coburn

The Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs has become a frequent impediment to new street improvements in the first year of Mayor Adams's tenure, stalling new bus lanes and bike and pedestrian infrastructure at the behest of the mayor's political allies or other critics of such projects.

Governor Hochul Signs Legislative Package to Support Pedestrians, Bikers and Transit Riders

Governor's press release, December 28, 2022

Legislation (S.3897/A.8936-A) Provides Funding for "Complete Streets" Projects Inclusive of a Holistic Approach to Street Design.

Legislation (S.3959-B/A.7822-C) Adds Board Seats to NFTA, RGRTA, CDTA, and Central New York Regional Airport Authority Dedicated to a Transit Dependent Individual.

MTA to cut Monday, Friday service on some lines, bolster others in post-pandemic realignment

December 19, 2022, *amny.com*, by Ben Brachfeld

The 1, 6, 7, E, F, L, and Q lines will see "strategic reductions" in service on Mondays and Fridays starting in June 2023, in order to make possible increased services on some other lines...The alteration comes as the post-pandemic era cements what the MTA expects to be permanent changes to how riders utilize the subway. Data analysis, Davey said, consistently shows that average ridership is lower on Mondays and Fridays than on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, a consequence of the rise of remote work...As riders continue to return to mass transit and patterns change, New York City Transit will adapt service accordingly...Subway ridership has stagnated at about 60% of pre-pandemic averages, but the deficits have not been distributed evenly across the system. At some stations, especially those in working-class outer-borough neighborhoods where fewer people work remotely, ridership has recovered to about 90% of 2019 levels.

[Citi Bike Raises Fees as Advocates Urge Mayor Adams to Keep His Promise of Public Funding](#)

December 29, 2022, *nyc.streetsblog.org*, by Gersh Kuntzman

The Lyft-owned bike-share system announced this afternoon that it was raising fees across the board...The company pointed out that the yearly membership still works out to just \$17.08 per month—far less than a monthly MetroCard...Annual members took 75 percent of all rides, the company said... In a statement, Lyft clearly reminded city officials, without actually saying it, that it is time for the system to get the same thing that every other form of public transit gets — some public subsidy—as it continues to grow its fleet to 40,000 bikes by 2024...Overall, Citi Bike carried 30.5 million rides in 2022...By comparison, the New York City ferry system, which is highly subsidized, carried about 4.8 million passengers between January and October...Citi Bike is the one bright spot on Lyft’s ledger sheet. The bike share system runs at a slight loss, but it’s nothing compared to the red ink bleeding out of the company headquarters. According to its recent posting, the company’s losses in the third quarter of 2022 were \$422.2 million.

Holiday Trash Pickup

The New York City Department of Sanitation has released the following guidelines for residents who normally receive Monday collection:

Monday, January 2

Residents who usually receive collection on Monday may put their trash out between 4pm and midnight on Monday, for pickup on Tuesday, January 3.

Disposing of your Christmas tree

Natural trees: Remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, plastic wrapping, stand and netting before bringing the tree to a Mulchfest site or putting your tree out on the curb. Set out clean natural trees for curbside [collection](#) January 6 - 14.

Artificial trees: Donate or sell if in good condition. Set out artificial trees as garbage on [regular collection day\(s\)](#). If possible, take apart your tree to recycle the base and trunk (pole) with metal, glass, plastic and cartons.

through January 8

MulchFest makes NYC greener!

Join NYC Parks and the New York City Department of Sanitation in the NYC holiday tradition of recycling your Christmas tree! If you can haul your tree to a MulchFest location, they will chip your

tree into wood chips and give you your very own bag of mulch to use to make a winter bed for a street tree or for trees in your own garden. That will nourish trees and make NYC even greener. Remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, stand and netting before bringing the tree to a Mulchfest site. Learn about MulchFest dates and locations at nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest.

News from neighborhood businesses & nonprofits

Most Bryant Park Winter Village Holiday Shops close on January 2.

Bryant Park (between 40th & 42nd Street, and between 5th & 6th Avenue, behind the Library)

Ukraine aid

[New York State website with information about resources and aid for Ukrainians](#)

State Department program Uniting for Ukraine

To help fulfill President Biden's promise to temporarily resettle 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, the State Department has established Uniting for Ukraine, in which legal residents of the United States can apply to be sponsors of migrants under a process called Humanitarian Parole. Learn more at uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/humanitarian-parole. Welcome.US, a humanitarian group for refugee resettlement, has created a [guide to the process](#) (and offers a [mailing list](#)) for people interested in becoming a sponsor. "Sponsors may apply as individuals, as a group, or as a representative of a non-governmental agency. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) lists the [eligibility requirements](#) and the [instructions](#) for completing [Form I-134](#) (the Declaration of Financial Support).

[Source: Council Member Gale Brewer's Update email of 4/28/2022]

Ukrainians in the U.S. since March 1 are eligible for Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for an 18 month period. CUNY's Citizenship Now project is ready to help the Ukrainian community apply for this benefit. Call 646-664-6400.



Donating to help people in Ukraine?

Check out the group or person before sending money — by cryptocurrency or any other payment method.

Start here: ftc.gov/charity



Scam alerts!

USPS Mailbox scams!

Seen on social media (Nextdoor-Murray Hill)

Warning: Beware of the US Mailbox on SE corner of 26th and 7th. The mail does not go all the way down the slot due to sticky substance on the inside of the slot.

Comment: I only mail letters in the post office. Too risky to use a mailbox on the street. A friend of mine had her check compromised from the mailbox in front of the Murray Hill Annex Post Office on East 36th Street east of Third Avenue!

Source: AARP Fraud Watch Network email, aarp.org, December 28, 2022

Trending scams in 2022.

Identity Fraud. When your personal information is stolen, it is identity theft. When your stolen data are used fraudulently, it is identity fraud. For the second consecutive year, the Federal Trade Commission's tracking shows identity fraud is topping the charts. To safeguard yourself against identity theft and fraud, avoid sharing sensitive information to anyone who contacts you. Avoid clicking on links in emails and texts, set up electronic access to your financial accounts, and consider setting up a fraud alert or credit freeze to protect against fraudulent account openings.

Impostor Scams. These scams generally start with an unsolicited call, email, text or social media message, impersonating organizations you would already trust, like your bank, another business you may have a relationship with or a government agency. These criminals seek to instill a heightened emotion (fear, desire...)...If you receive such a message, don't click a link or return the call on an offered number; find a way to reach the entity at a number you know to be trusted if you think there may be a legitimate reason to connect with them.

Online Shopping Scams. Shopping scams proliferate online. Criminals will use email, texting, social media and paid ads to lure shoppers to a great deal on a hot item. The goal is to serve up a fake site to steal login credentials, capture payment information or send malicious software to your device that would do the same thing. Don't click on links or ads to go to a trusted site. Instead, type the web address directly into your browser. Use a credit card when shopping. It offers more protections

than other payment forms. Keep your device's operating system and antivirus software up to date. And, apologies to startups, but it's safest to stick with brands you know and trust when you shop online.

COVID-19 updates

Data taken on **12/30/22** from the COVID-19 page on the NYC Department of Health website www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page.

Commissioner's Advisory on Prevention

COVID-19, RSV and flu are spreading in NYC this winter season. We strongly recommend everyone to wear masks in all indoor public settings to reduce the spread of these viruses.:

- Stay up-to-date on [vaccinations](#) for Covid-19 and flu. Vaccine Finder app vaccinefinder.nyc.gov.
The new booster targeting the prevailing Covid variants is now available. If you have recently been infected with Covid-19, the CDC recommends waiting until three months after your infection to receive a booster.
- Wear a high-quality mask, such as a KN95 or KF94 [in all public indoor settings and around crowds outside].
- [Test](#) before and after travel or gatherings, or if you were recently exposed to someone who has COVID-19.
- [Stay home if sick](#).
[CDC recommends: If you have COVID-19 symptoms:
 - Test
 - Talk—talk to a healthcare professional if you are eligible for treatment
 - Treat—start treatment within 5 days of developing symptoms]
- Wash [or sanitize] your hands frequently.
- Consider additional precautions if you are at [increased risk of severe illness](#).

NOTE: CDC also recommends:

- Good [ventilation](#)

Proof of vaccination and masks may be required by employers, businesses and nonprofits.

CDC continues to [recommend](#) that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time.

CDC's travel risk assessment tools cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

Trends

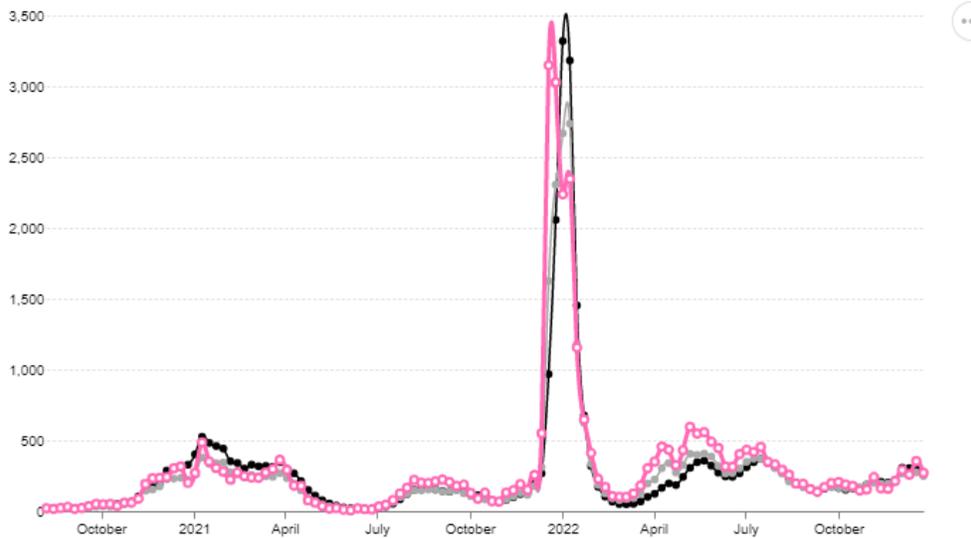
Data taken on **12/30/22** from NYC Department of Health Covid Data page www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-neighborhoods.page compares case rates for zip code 10016, Manhattan and NYC.

Trends

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is considered controlled when neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in **10016**, **Manhattan**, and **all of NYC**



Free at-home rapid COVID tests from the Federal government (winter 2022-2023 round) are now available. Order them at covid.gov/tests.

Check with your pharmacist to find out if your health plan covers the rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits (8 per month).

[CDC tracking rise of new XBB.1.5 COVID variant, already more than 40% of U.S. cases](#)

December 30, 2022, *cbsnews.com*, by Alexander Tin

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday it is tracking a new variant of concern dubbed XBB.1.5. According to new figures published Friday, it estimates XBB.1.5 makes up 40.5% of new infections across the country. XBB.1.5's ascent is overtaking other Omicron variant cousins BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, which had dominated a wave of infections over the fall. Scientists believe its recent growth could be driven by key mutations on top of what was already one of the more immune evasive strains of Omicron to date.

More Covid-19 information for Murray Hill towards the bottom of this newsletter.

Kudos!

A big congratulations to neighborhood businesses and nonprofits!

2022 was a challenging year, and we salute you for your resilience! You make a difference in the neighborhood, and we look forward to a better 2023!

To all Murray Hill patrons, clients and customers—please make a New Year's resolution to **invest in our neighborhood and patronize local!**

The Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism/Society of Jewish Science had a rededication on December 22, marking its 100th anniversary! The virtual service was led by Rabbi Frank Tamburello and Rabbi Scott Matous.

The Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism
109 East 39th Street (between Park & Lexington Avenue)
212-682-2626
makorcenter.org

River School (P.S. 281) lands funds for hydroponics lab

Source: St. Vartan Park Conservancy newsletter, December 22, 2022

New York City Council Member Keith Powers...has earmarked \$50,000 in the city's 2023 budget for a classroom at the school to be converted into a hydroponics science laboratory. Hydroponics uses

nutrient-rich water in place of soil to grow plants. Among its benefits is the ability to grow a variety of foods locally year-round.

Mary Lindley Murray playground (P.S. 116) scores support

Source: St. Vartan Park Conservancy newsletter, December 22, 2022

Fronted by artwork of nature created by community resident Milton Glaser (1929-2020), the famed graphic designer of I ♥ New York and other iconic logos, the playground at Mary Lindley Murray (P.S. 116) has long been in need of an upgrade. The school yard four blocks south of St. Vartan Park was one of the first recipients of basketball nets from Swish You Were Here, a program managed by St. Vartan Park Conservancy. Now, courtesy of New York City Council Member Carlina Rivera, there will be a much greater refresh of the space. Rivera is the sponsor of a \$100,000 upgrade of the playground that's in the 2023 New York City budget.

Pajama Program's Executive Director, Jamie Dyce's email of December 30, 2022

As 2022 draws to a close...I can't help but feel an even deeper, personal connection to the work we're doing...Our new set of education programs is designed to improve the health and well-being of children from ages two to eight, starting with bedtime as the means to achieve our goal—good nights for good days for all children. Through our new programming, not only are we working with young children, but we're also delivering programs to the influential adults in their lives...Admittedly, I have taken my work home with me. Thanks to our team of experts at Pajama Program, I am acutely aware that there are immediate and long-term benefits to implementing a bedtime routine...I'm more determined than ever to shout it from the rooftops and share with any who care to listen that a bedtime routine can pave the way for restorative sleep, and ultimately a healthier, happier child, and healthier, happier families...But, while sleep may be free, it's not yet equally experienced by all children everywhere. There are children and families experiencing challenges beyond their control that thwart the bedtime routine, making a good night's sleep hard to come by. Through our programs, we are determined to level the playing field when it comes to giving every child a chance to thrive.

Pajama Program

171 Madison Ave., Suite 1409

pajamaprogram.org

Job, training, grant & internship opportunities

January 3 10am – 5pm

(In-person) One-on-One Job Support

Meet with an NYPL staff member in-person to jump-start your job search, get resume support, and obtain the right resources to find the job you desire. Each One-on-One Job Support appointment provides unbiased, objective feedback that will be tailored to your job search and individual needs.

Each appointment can last up to 50 minutes. Learn more and book your appointment at nypl.org/events/programs/2023/01/03/person-one-one-job-support-snfl.

New York Public Library—Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL)

Pasculano Learning Center

455 Fifth Avenue (40th Street)

212-340-0863

Fully Accessible

January 25 (application deadline)

The NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship

An \$8,000 unrestricted cash grant is available to artists living in New York State (and/or an Indian Nation within state boundaries). They are currently accepting applications in the categories of Craft / Sculpture / Digital / Electronic Arts / Nonfiction Literature/ Poetry / Printmaking / Drawing / Book Arts. Visit the link at New York Foundation for the Arts to learn more. Successful applicants will be notified Summer, 2023. Learn more and apply at nyfa.org/awards-grants/artist-fellowships.

Bryant Park Corporation is currently accepting applications for the role of Park Operations Manager.

This is a dynamic and seasonally variable job with an award-winning Business Improvement District. Ideal candidates will have experience managing others, strong organizational skills, and a passion for urban affairs, public spaces, economic development, and/or real estate. More information on the position is available online at urbanmgt.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=841833da29849e01ec2ad6fab&id=e6b2182448&e=1165e24a4c. Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to operationsjob@urbanmgt.com.

January 31 (deadline to apply)

The Civilian Complaint Review Board's Youth Advisory Council application

Open to New Yorkers ages 10-18 years old; deadline to apply Tuesday, 1/31/23. Apply at nyc.gov/site/ccrb/about/outreach/yac-application.page. Video and audio statements can be submitted via link in the application's "Please describe why you would be an ideal member of the CCRB Youth Advisory Council" section.

Make your views known

January 11 (comment-by date)

January 11 1 – 8pm (virtual hearing date)

Registration and Requirements for Short-Term Rentals

The Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement is proposing a rule to implement Local Law 18 for the year 2022, which requires short-term rental hosts to register with the City and prohibits booking services from processing transactions for unregistered listings. This is the second notice for this rule. The original notice was published on November 4, 2022. The text of the rule has not changed since the original publication. Learn more at rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/registration-and-requirements-for-short-term-rentals. Rule full text, including link to the virtual hearing rules.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Proposed-Rules-Registration-and-Requirements-for-Short-Term-Rentals-Second-Notice-with-certifications.pdf.

Stop Demolishing Landmarks!

Source: Historic Districts Council email of December 19, 2022

On Thursday, December 15th, Historic District Council [a preservation group] and community partners were joined by elected officials and concerned members of the public for a press conference at City Hall, condemning City agencies for approving a raft of demolitions of landmarked buildings across New York. From Harlem to Bed-Stuy, the Village to the Upper East Side, landmarked buildings (or buildings under consideration for landmarking) are being demolished on the City's orders, and even through its errors, in spite of the legal protections the landmarks process is designed to provide...HDC's policy recommendations include:

- Increased, more formal, and more transparent communication between agencies, especially the Department of Buildings and Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- More oversight on complex construction and renovation projects which could lead to undermining of landmarks, including neighboring construction.
- More public notice on possible demolitions and buildings at risk to give community members and elected officials more time to respond and help save landmarks.

If you support this initiative, you can sign HDC's petition at <https://p2a.co/xpurumm>.

How you can help

Join a MHNA committee

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is an all-volunteer organization. We need your help to keep the Association's work going. Volunteering can be for individual events, such as the Street Festival, and also for ongoing activities, such as Membership. Many administrative activities can be done remotely. [Learn about the different committees](#). If you are interested in joining a committee, please email info@murrayhillnyc.org.

Penn Station updates

[Why New York State Insists That the Penn Station Area Is 'Blighted'](#)

December 29, 2022, *nytimes.com*, by Matthew Haag and Patrick McGeehan

The designation gives Gov. Kathy Hochul authority to transform the Manhattan neighborhood and build 10 skyscrapers there. A lawsuit is challenging her claim. State officials and real estate developers plan to renovate Penn Station and build a series of surrounding office towers. The congested, chaotic section of Manhattan near Pennsylvania Station, which teems with tourists, commuters and shoppers, is undeniably drab. Does that make it blighted? New York State has decreed that it is, and Gov. Kathy Hochul has recently likened the Penn Station area to “a Skid Row neighborhood.” She was defending the controversial plan to allow developers to build 10 towers around the decrepit train station – the busiest transit hub in the nation – in exchange for some of the \$7 billion the state needs to renovate it... If New York State officials deem an urban area to be “blighted,” blocks can be bulldozed and people and businesses can be forced to relocate. And new towers – unbound by limits on size and height as defined by the city’s normal planning rules – can rise. The state’s authority to make such a determination and move forward with redevelopment is nearly impossible to contest...Over the past 15 years, dozens of states have placed limitations on when they can take ownership of private property. But not New York State, which has among the fewest restrictions on its power to rebuild areas in the name of economic development... Over the years, state projects aimed at eradicating blight have been criticized for rewarding developers whose properties had seemingly contributed to it...Vornado’s chief executive, Steven Roth, once boasted about letting a Manhattan property languish on purpose to spur the government to offer financial assistance. That site on Lexington Avenue later became the headquarters for Bloomberg LP...The Penn Station project received the first approval in July that it needed from the state’s three-member Public Authorities Control Board. But the board would have to unanimously approve additional parts of the project for it to move forward.

Related: The New York Landmarks Conservancy letter to the Times Editor,

December 29, 2022

Despite the Governor’s insistence that blocks around Penn Station are “blighted,” the State’s own assessment of the area lists 16 buildings in the project area that are either City landmarks, potential City landmarks, or architecturally eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Six of these buildings would be demolished if the plan proceeds...Your story said a State report noted that many buildings in the area were built before 1932. So was much of the City. Should other areas be concerned? The State also cited “lower rental revenue” in the area. The report also expressed concern that buildings in the area are of “different heights and architectural styles” and that smaller plots made it difficult to assemble land for large buildings. If the State succeeds, no one will have to worry about architectural variety or lower rents. info@nylandmarks.org

[Editor’s note: Eminent Domain (when the State takes over private property) should be used sparingly and only for the public good, not to make things easier for private interests. How can you call a whole neighborhood “blighted” when there are active investments to improve it? Big NYC real estate shouldn’t be able to overpower the interests of small real estate. Neighborhood improvement is better handled in a more organic and equitable way with community involvement. Find another way to fund the regional good of public transportation!]

Related: [PENN2'S Overhaul Continues At Two Penn Plaza In Midtown, Manhattan](#)

January 1, 2023, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young and Matt Pruznick

Work continues on the renovation of PENN2, a 31-story mid-century commercial building at Two Penn Plaza in Midtown, Manhattan. Designed by MdeAS Architects and developed by Vornado Realty Trust, the project involves a full-scale overhaul of the 412-foot-tall structure's 1.61 million square feet of office space, replacement of its façade with a modern glass curtain wall, and the construction of a multi-story cantilevering volume along Seventh Avenue. GMSLLP is the façade consultant and Turner Construction Company and Skanska are the contractors for the property, which is located between West 31st and West 33rd Streets and a central part of the Penn District revitalization that will transform the area surrounding Penn Station and Madison Square Garden.

Related: [Demolition Progresses For 1,200-Foot PENN15 At 15 Penn Plaza In Midtown, Manhattan](#)

December 30, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young and Matt Pruznick

PENN 15, a 1,200-foot commercial supertall at 15 Penn Plaza in Midtown, Manhattan. Designed by Foster + Partners and developed by Vornado Realty Trust, the 56-story skyscraper will yield 2.7 million square feet of office space and stand as the centerpiece of the 7.4-million-square-foot Penn District master plan. Northstar Contracting Group is the demolition contractor for the property, which is located along Seventh Avenue between West 32nd and 33rd Streets.

[A Very Moynihan Train Hall Thanksgiving: 'Wow, I Can't Even Sit Down?'](#)

November 26, 2022, *hellgatenyc.com*, by Christopher Robbins

Why is there nowhere to sit in the magnificent main hall?...If you ask the soup of agencies who oversee Moynihan (they include the MTA, Amtrak, the New York State government via Empire State Development, and Vornado Realty Trust, the developer that oversees the commercial leases in the station), you don't get a straight answer...One Amtrak police officer we spoke to on Wednesday was even more frank. "This is a mall, they don't see it like a train station"...there was nowhere to sit next to the track entrances..."But there's other stuff [Moynihan's] missing too. Like a big board,..."There's nowhere to point to really tell them where their trains are...Instead, there are many little displays scattered around the train hall, and four giant screens above that play advertisements on a loop...Another design flaw that is seemingly baked into Moynihan is the boarding process, in which hundreds of people stampede towards their train track once it's announced, then are held at the top of the escalator as an attendant checks each ticket, something that could be done on board.

[Hudson River rail tunnel construction in NYC starting in 2023 with \\$292M federal grant, Schumer says](#)

December 29, 2022, *nydailynews.com*, by Bill Sanderson

A \$292 million federal grant will let construction work begin in the coming months on the Manhattan side of the new Hudson River rail tunnels linking Penn Station to New Jersey, Sen. Chuck Schumer said Thursday. The grant will cover about half the \$600 million cost of building the

concrete casing of a box tunnel that will carry trains beneath Hudson Yards in and out of Penn Station as part of the Gateway Program...Concrete tunnel casing leading west from Penn Station to Tenth Ave. is complete. The federal grant...will fund extension of the concrete tunnel casing from Tenth Ave. to west of Eleventh Ave., said Stephen Sigmund, a Gateway Program spokesman...The Hudson Tunnel portion of the project, with an estimated price tag of about \$16.1 billion, will link Penn Station to the Secaucus station in New Jersey, 4½ miles away... The Hudson tunnels are part of the overall Gateway project, which is estimated to cost \$30 billion in all, including new tracks and bridges west of Secaucus. When construction is complete in the 2030s, four tracks will be available to trains between Newark and New York.

(opinion) [Flying blind: The problem isn't flight cancellations – It's flying!](#)

December 31, 2022, *thehill.com*, by Sidney Tarrow, Maxwell Upson Emeritus Professor of Government at Cornell University and an adjunct professor at the Cornell Law School. After a tumultuous week when hundreds of thousands of travelers were blocked from reaching their destinations by flight delays, cancellations, and reroutings...why has no official at any level of government noted that it is climate change that has made such airline failures almost predictable?...Think of France: In recent days, the French government received permission from the European Union to cancel short-haul flights where there is a train available on equivalent routes...We need to imagine a transportation network in which airlines do what they do best—carry passengers on long-haul flights—while trains are given the resources and the planning permissions to handle the short-haul routes for which they are most suited.

For businesses, nonprofits & buildings

January 4 4pm

(virtual workshop) The Power of Business Networking Communities

Paulina Lopez discusses how to build your brand and your business while maximizing your growth building efforts with exclusive connections through community. Paulina Lopez is an Author, Speaker, Business Coach, Consultant and Strategist. Her Corporate Background is in Finance, Operations, Strategy, Human Resources and Communications. Paulina is CEO and Founder of The Business of WE (Women Entrepreneurs), in New York City. Presented by The New York Public Library Thomas Yoseloff Business Center at SNFL. Register at [nyp.org/events/programs/2023/01/04/httpswwweventbritecomethe-power-business-networking-communities](https://www.eventbrite.com/the-power-business-networking-communities).

NYC Accelerator Learning Center offers free training on building and energy topics that can boost building performance and help owners avoid annual Local Law 97 fines. Check out the two newest courses to expand your expertise and grow your skillset.

Training: Existing Building Retrofits for Local Law 97 Training

- Understand what's included in the city's building emissions law and how building owners can avoid annual fines
- Learn about energy upgrades that reduce emissions and review case studies of various deep retrofits

Training: Heat Pumps for Small Buildings

- Learn how heat pumps can enhance comfort and efficiency
- Review available incentives for new construction
- Identify best practices and common pitfalls for proper installation, startup, and maintenance
- Ensure compliance with building emissions and electrification laws (LL97 and LL154)

Browse free trainings on building and energy topics on the NYC Accelerator Learning Center at nycaccelerator.learnupon.com/users/sign_in?next=%2Fcatalog%2Fcourses%2F3035659. [Create your account](#).

Look up your building at accelerator.nyc/building-energy-snapshot.

(recorded webinar) [Getting Certified as a Woman-Owned, Minority-Owned or Veteran-Owned Business](#)

(free) running time 45 minutes.

[The Top 10 Social Media Marketing Tips Your Company Needs for Success in 2023](#)

December 13, 2022, *score.org* (extract)

- Audit Your Current Social Media Platforms—Go to where your customers are. If you know generally the demographics your customers fall into, you can find out which social platforms they are spending the most time on, and you can meet them where they are.
- Use The Resources You Have
- Define Your Metrics For Success—figure out what that “success” really is and give it a clear definition.
- Go For The Soft Sell—What people are desperate for is brand authenticity.

(recorded webinar) [Your Marketing Roadmap - Stop Selling and Start Educating](#) (free) Running time 1 hour. Join SCORE and small business expert and entrepreneur Ramon Ray. By educating your customer you'll be guiding them to buy from you instead of trying to convince them.

Upcoming events



through February 28

(virtual) **Gallery35 exhibit, REALITY•FANTASY**

For the third exhibit in a series focusing on CONTRAST in art, Gallery35 artists embraced the challenge of contrasting reality with fantasy in varying degrees—often within the same artwork. Their first gallery exhibit of 2023 is just brimming with unrestricted creativity! View the exhibit at gallery35nyc.com/2022/12/30/imagination-goes-wild-in-our-newest-contrast-exhibit. FREE and open to the public.

Gallery35

917-566-0708

gallery35nyc.com

E-mail: gallery35ny@gmail.com

January 3 10:30am – 1pm

Meet & Greet: Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

A representative from the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) will be available to answer questions about their services. ENDGBV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers, service centers that provide vital social services; civil, legal, and criminal

justice assistance; and more—all under one roof. Learn more at nypl.org/events/programs/2023/01/03/meet-greet-mayors-office-end-domestic-and-gender-based-violence-endgbv.

at the New York Public Library Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL)

1st Floor Lobby

455 Fifth Avenue (at 40th Street)

January 3 6pm

(virtual) Community Board 5 Budget, Education & City Services Committee Meeting

Agenda: Department of City Planning (DCP) presentation and review of the annual Community District Needs Statement and Budget Process, Independent Budget Office review of their NYC Fiscal Outlook Report, Council Member Keith Powers to discuss Intro 0632, legislation to prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of arrest record or criminal history, and other legislative priorities.

Register at us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HaRkXEc-Truc3CZhuRGf5A.

January 4 12 - 1:30pm

(virtual) Estate Planning Basics

Shu-Ping Shen, senior counsel, Loeb & Loeb, discusses the importance of estate planning, no matter one's net worth, and the various documents one should have on hand to ensure that your estate is properly managed. The discussion includes the purpose and necessity of Wills, Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, and Living Wills. Register at nypl.org/events/programs/2023/01/04/estate-planning-basics. Presented by the New York Public Library Thomas Yoseloff Business Center at SNFL

January 5 6 - 7pm

(virtual) The Residential Recycling and Reuse Committee of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board is offering a class: Reducing Food Waste

Agenda: climate change and composting, brown bins and rats, how to divert food scraps from trash in the kitchen, why it's important to reduce food waste, how to reduce food waste. Register at

[docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3H1tt-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3H1tt-SuDsy370XURj6cmTobiglwqdDj_5ByOm_tTGrGufA/viewform)

[SuDsy370XURj6cmTobiglwqdDj_5ByOm_tTGrGufA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3H1tt-SuDsy370XURj6cmTobiglwqdDj_5ByOm_tTGrGufA/viewform); a link for the class will be sent before the start date.



January 7 7pm

The Armenian Evangelical Church annual Armenian Christmas service followed by a party

Service starts at 7pm with a party following downstairs in the church hall. Donations are welcome at aecnyc.org to donate online. If you wish to make a Christmas donation and/or beautify the church sanctuary and be mentioned in the next Tertig, you can make a donation towards their annual poinsettia arrangement. Kindly respond to this email with names of who you'd like to make your donation in memory of. Email info@aecnyc.org.

at Armenian Evangelical Church

152 East 34th Street (between Lexington & Third Avenue)

212-685-3177

The Morgan Library & Museum

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

212-685-0008

themorgan.org

Timed admissions. Purchase tickets at themorgan.org / Morgan Library members free. Fridays free from 5 – 7pm. [Reservations required](#). See the [MHNA Merchants Discount page](#) for details about discounts to Morgan Library events and membership.

through January 8

Exhibit: *Belle DaCosta Greene and the Women of the Morgan*

This exhibit explores the institution's first director and her professional correspondence, catalogued only recently, offering new insight into how Greene maneuvered in a world of books and manuscripts dominated by men. It also reveals the stories of other women who worked with Greene at the Morgan Library, including Meta Harrsen, Marguerite Duprez Lahey, Dorothy Miner, Violet Napier (née Burnie), and Ada Thurston.

[Concerts, Talks, and More](#)

Changes in the neighborhood

[Tumi Opening Showroom Near New Midtown South Offices](#)

December 27, 2022, *commercialobserver.com*, by Celia Young

Tumi buckled up a deal for a store and showroom space across the street from its future Midtown South headquarters. The luggage company signed a 5,189-square-foot lease for the ground floor of PGIM Real Estate's 180 Madison Avenue [between 33rd & 34th Street] with plans to open shop in the spring...Tumi wanted its new outpost — equipped with a photography studio, magnetic wall and demonstration table — to be near its 20,000-square-foot offices at 16 East 34th Street [between 5th & Madison Avenue], which it will relocate to from 261 Fifth Avenue early next year.

[Renderings Revealed For SPARC Life Science And Public Health Innovation Hub In Kips Bay, Manhattan](#)

October 21, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Sebastian Morris

New York City mayor Eric Adams and New York governor Kathy Hochul have unveiled plans to construct Manhattan's first Science Park and Research Campus (SPARC) in Kips Bay. Located on Hunter College's Brookdale Campus at East 25th Street and First Avenue, SPARC is described as a career and education innovation hub for life sciences. The project will transform an entire city block and create more than 1.5 million square feet of academic, public health, and life sciences space. The campus will be anchored by new educational facilities for over 4,500 students from the Hunter College School of Nursing and School of Health Professions, the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, and the Borough of Manhattan Community College's multiple healthcare programs. Additional components include a blood testing and ambulatory center, a training center for simulated patient blood testing, a new healthcare and science-focused high school, a new Office of Chief Medical Examiner Forensic Pathology Center, office space, and wet labs. The project will also create a new publicly accessible pedestrian bridge that connects East 25th Street to the East River and Manhattan Waterfront Greenway... Over the next year, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), CUNY, and Skidmore Owings & Merrill will work in partnership to complete a master planning for the development to identify the site's infrastructure needs, opportunities to create public open space, urban design, and potential zoning amendments needed to facilitate construction... According to NYEDC, the project team intends to engage the community leader [sic] for feedback as the development takes shape... The \$1.6 billion project cost will be funded jointly by the city and state with additional private sector investments. Construction is expected to break ground in 2023 and be completed by the end of 2026.

Bideawee animal shelter will be moving in January

Bideawee, the animal shelter for pet adoptions and fostering, at 410 East 38th Street, by the East River, has told us that they will be relocating to their new facility at 152 West 24th Street (near 7th

Avenue) in late January and will reopen in February. We first reported the planned move in the [MHNA Fall 2021 newsletter](#). Wealthy philanthropist, Mrs. Flora D'Auby Jenkins Kibbe founded the animal shelter more than 117 years ago.

The Bidawee property on 38th Street is directly across the street from the dormant property between 38th & 41st Street, whose owner intends to apply for a casino license for an entertainment complex at that site. The Bidawee property on 38th Street is for sale.



[Soloviev bets long-dormant Midtown East site in casino sweepstakes](#)

November 21, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, TRD Staff

Scion to pitch hotel, entertainment complex 20 years after Sheldon Solow acquired site...Soloviev, heir to Sheldon Solow's real estate empire, intends to apply for a casino license for a site south of the United Nations on the east side of Manhattan, Bloomberg reported. The six-acre site spans multiple parcels—primarily between 38th and 41st streets east of First Avenue — formerly occupied by a Con Edison plant.

[Related: In NYC casino license bid, politicians, lobbyists are already hitting the jackpot](#)

Oct 20, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jon Campbell

New York state will soon open up bidding for licenses to operate three full-gaming casinos in the five boroughs and the surrounding area—an untapped market the giants of the gambling industry have long had in their sights. Regardless of whether the casinos are profitable, there will be a windfall to the state: Each coveted license, by law, will fetch at least \$500 million in fees, not to mention the tax revenue — at least 25% on slots and 10% on table games — that will follow once the facilities are up and running. Licenses for full-scale casinos allow live table games with dealers, attracting a larger clientele. But even before the bidding process officially begins, it's already been a financial boon to two classes of New Yorkers: politicians and lobbyists...What's next? The state's gaming commission named the first three members of the Gaming Facility Location Board — the key panel that will essentially pick the winners of the casino licenses — on Oct. 3. That started a 90-day clock to issue a formal request for proposals, or RFP, which will essentially open up the bidding process for the final three casino licenses. The deadline to issue the RFP lines up with the start of

2023. From there, the selection process will officially begin, with casino operators and developers submitting proposals that will be judged on their economic impact, local support, and more.

Changes Underway at Three Midtown Buildings With Vornado, Rudin Agreements

Vornado's plans for a Midtown supertall to rival 425 Park are being put into action December 9, 2022, *commercialobserver.com*, by Emily Fu
Citadel and an affiliate of its founder and CEO Kenneth Griffin reached an agreement with Vornado Realty Trust and Rudin Management Company that will give it the ability to build a new office tower in Midtown East, Vornado announced Friday. As part of the deal, Citadel will master-lease Vornado's 585,000-square-foot 350 Park Avenue for 10 years on an "as is" basis, with an initial annual net rent of \$36 million. The hedge fund behemoth will also master-lease Rudin's adjacent 390,000-square-foot 40 East 52nd Street. Vornado has also formed a joint venture with Rudin to purchase 39 East 51st Street for \$40 million. The companies will combine that property with the above two assets to create a "premier development site," according to the release...Citadel is already a tenant at 350 Park and a new development there could serve as its new New York City headquarters. The firm seemingly has an unending appetite for office space...Zia Ahmed, a spokesperson for Citadel, told Bloomberg. "We expect that if this building is built it will be able to house all of our New York City employees for both Citadel and Citadel Securities, which will reduce the need for us to have them spread across multiple sites in New York City as they currently are."

Foundations Underway For KPF's 520 Fifth Avenue Supertall In Midtown, Manhattan

December 23, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young and Matt Pruznick
The ninth-tallest building on our December countdown is 520 Fifth Avenue, a 995-foot-tall mixed-use supertall in Midtown, Manhattan. Designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox and developed by Rabina, which took over from Ceruzzi Properties and SMI USA in 2019, the 76-story structure will span 507,608 square feet and yield 98 residential units, commercial space, and four cellar levels. Suffolk Construction is the general contractor for the property, which is located at the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and West 43rd Street...520 Fifth Avenue's completion date is posted on the construction board for June 1, 2026.

[Editor's note: This construction is next to The Century Association (formed in 1847, and moved in 1891 to their present Renaissance-style building, designed by the firm of McKim, Mead & White (all three architects were members), 7 West 43rd Street, thecentury.org]

262 Fifth Avenue Residential Supertall Begins Ascent In NoMad, Manhattan

December 24, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young and Matt Pruznick
262 Fifth Avenue, a 1,000-foot-tall residential supertall in NoMad, Manhattan. Designed by Meganom with SLCE Architects as the executive architect and developed by Boris Kuzinez of Five

Points Development under the Five Points 262 Project LLC, the 54-story skyscraper will yield 41 condominium units and 11,000 square feet of retail space on the first two floors. WSP is the structural and M.E.P. engineer and CM & Associates Construction Management is the general contractor for the property, which is located at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and West 29th Street...YIMBY expects 262 Fifth Avenue to be completed in the latter half of 2024.

Murray Hill in the news

[Man stabbed in the back on Manhattan train, police say](#)

December 26, 2022, *pix11.com*, by Mira Wassef

A man was stabbed in the back aboard a Manhattan train early Monday, police said. The 36-year-old victim and the suspect got into a fight on the northbound No. 6 train at the 33rd Street and Park Avenue subway station at around midnight, authorities said...The victim was taken to the hospital in stable condition. The suspect fled and remained at large, as of Monday morning, police said. Anyone with information in regard to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or on Twitter @NYPDTips.

Schools and students

NYC Public School applications

For students entering in Fall 2023

- **through January 20**—the [kindergarten](#) application is open. Beginning this year, you can add kindergarten G&T programs to your kindergarten application.
- [Head Start](#). For qualifying families: Head Start provides safe, positive learning environments for children ages 3-4.
- [3-K](#) applications are closed. Apply when your child turns three.
- [Pre-K](#) applications are closed. Apply when your child turns four.
- [Gifted & talented](#). Eligible children entering kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 can participate in G&T admissions.
- [High school](#) applications are closed.
- [Middle school](#) applications are closed.

- [Specialized High Schools](#) applications are closed.

Learn more at the NYC Board of Education website schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade, including how to apply if you need a school for your child now, and the *Admissions Guide*. Get help with enrollment at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help.

Need a School for Your Child Now? Learn what to do on the [New Students](#) page.

Related events:

January 4 4pm

(virtual) Turning 5: The Kindergarten Admissions Process

(free) This workshop will cover the process for applying to DOE public schools, including tips for researching schools, ways to apply, understanding how school offers are made, and what to do when you get an offer. It will also cover how to apply to charter schools, parents' rights, advocacy tips, and how to get help. Presented by Chalkbeat.org. Register at <https://events.chalkbeat.org/event/turning-5-the-kindergarten-admissions-process-6>.

January 5 7pm

(virtual) NYC Pre-K, K & G&T School Admissions: Strategies for Success

(free) For parents whose child will be applying to Pre-K, Kindergarten and/or Gifted & Talented (G&T) public school programs in NYC anytime soon. Agenda will include (subject to change): Keys to success & demystifying DOE policies, What is G&T?, Fundamentals of completing the application & selecting school programs, Timeline and key dates, Various results scenarios, Practical advice for Fall/Winter 2022/2023, Changes to this year's application process. Presented by Chalkbeat.org. Learn more and register at <https://events.chalkbeat.org/event/nyc-pre-k-k-gt-school-admissions-strategies-for-success>.

January 20 (submission deadline)

StudentCam, C-SPAN's national video documentary competition

To encourage students to think critically about issues, is asking students in grades 6-12 to create a 5-6 minute video documentary on a topic that relates to the competition theme, "If you were a newly elected member of Congress, which issue would be your first priority and why?" The submission deadline for all entries is Friday, 1/20/23. Cash prizes total \$100,000, awarded to the top 150 student documentaries (First prize is \$5,000). Teacher advisers on the top 50 winning videos also receive a cash award. Learn more at studentcam.org.

[Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the application for the Excelsior Scholarship for new applicants for the Spring 2023 term is now open](#)

Governor's press release, December 27, 2022

Learn more at hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html. The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with

other student financial aid, allows eligible full-time students to attend a SUNY or CUNY two-year or four-year college tuition-free. Students from households with federal adjusted gross incomes up to \$125,000 are eligible for a Spring Excelsior Scholarship award. Students must also: plan to attend a SUNY or CUNY two or four-year college, complete 30 credits per year towards their program of study (including Summer and Winter terms); and be on track to graduate with an Associate's Degree in two years or a Bachelor's Degree in four years.

[NYC schools shift COVID response: No more 'Situation Room' or family letters about positive cases](#)

December 20, 2022, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Amy Zimmer

New York City's education department will "permanently close" the command center that collects reports of positive COVID cases among students and school staff...Along with the Dec. 23 closure of the "Situation Room," families will no longer receive the automatically generated email notifications about cases in their school communities, and schools will no longer have to send letters about positive cases, said the note in the weekly digest to principals...The change comes as COVID cases are on the rise... Schools should continue to report coronavirus cases to a "return to school" online form, and parents and staffers will still be able to see their schools' positive cases by visiting the city's [daily COVID case map](#)... Students and staff must isolate for five days after testing positive for COVID. They can return to school on the sixth day if they have no symptoms, but must remain masked until Day 10. Education department officials are recommending everyone wear face coverings indoors as the "triple-demic" of COVID, flu, and RSV have hit the city's schools.

[Six ways students can reduce debt if Biden program is killed by courts](#)

December 25, 2022, *thehill.com*, by Lexi Lonas

Policing

NYPD 17th Precinct Community Council update

Inspector Edwards and Matt Roberts recorded an update, in which they cover the homicide that occurred at the women's shelter in December, as well as various seasonal scams. View the recording at <https://www.facebook.com/17thprecinctcc/videos/694098582309248>. Note: the suspect in the homicide has since turned herself in, and the case has been closed to arrest.

Save the date: The next 17th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31.

Weekly crime reports

17th precinct

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

13th Precinct

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

[Editor's note: related to the controversial activism to decriminalize sex work, and whether it should be limited to the workers, or be extended to sellers and all aspects of sex trade.]

[There used to be tens of thousands of prostitution arrests annually in NYC. Now? About 100.](#)

December 27, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Matt Katz

With little public attention, New York City has reversed how it polices prostitution, going from 20,000 annual arrests in 1985 to barely more than 100 this year. The plunge in arrests, gradual over the last decade, accelerated last year with decisions by borough district attorneys to stop prosecuting sex workers and dismiss thousands of open cases against those charged with selling sex...Prostitution remains illegal under state law. But like marijuana, it operates in New York City in a sort of legal netherworld—subject to arrest in certain circumstances, but not others...Two bills in Albany have been proposed to decriminalize certain prostitution-related crimes, but haven't been brought to a vote. The debate over how to decriminalize sex work centers around how it might affect sex trafficking, which is differentiated from consensual exchanges of money for sex in that it involves force, fraud, coercion or an underage victim. Advocates for survivors of sex trafficking are concerned that if sex work is fully legal, New York will become a hub of sex tourism.

Housing, zoning, planning, preservation & affordability

[Housing Lottery Waiting List Launches For Waterside Plaza In Kips Bay, Manhattan](#)

December 23, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Vanessa Londono

The affordable housing lottery waiting list has launched for Waterside Plaza, a complex with five mixed-use buildings at 10, 20, 25, 30, and 40 Waterside Plaza in Kips Bay, Manhattan. Owned by Brookfield Asset Management as of 2021, the structure yields 1,470 residences. Available on NYC Housing Connect are 26 units for residents at 130 and 160 percent of the area median income (AMI), ranging in eligible income from \$86,606 to \$264,800. New tenants get one month rent free... Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than January 12, 2023. Set up your account and learn more at <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb>.

To combat illegal short-term rentals, NYC tries a new registration system for hosts. Here's how it works

December 12, 2022, *brickunderground.com*, by Jennifer White Karp

Local Law 18 launches January 9th and requires hosts to identify themselves to the city
Sites like Airbnb, VRBO, and Booking.com can't process transactions without verifying registration status...Owners, co-op and condo boards can join list of buildings that prohibit short-term rentals.

Apartments Vanish From New York's Rent Regulation System And Questions Linger About How

December 23, 2022, *patch.com*, by Sam Rabiya, THE CITY

After a 2019 overhaul was supposed to stop landlords from removing apartments from rent stabilization, thousands are left unaccounted for...Amid an ongoing housing affordability crisis, the number of apartments New York landlords register as rent stabilized has dropped significantly — even after a 2019 state law forbade deregulation in most cases...Potentially thousands of tenants are now paying rent that exceeds formerly regulated amounts, without the rights rent-regulated tenants receive, such as guaranteed lease renewals and limited increases. Figures THE CITY obtained from the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) show 858,000 apartments registered as rent-regulated as of November 2022, down from 974,000 in 2019, the year the state legislature passed the sweeping Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act, or HSTPA.

nyc.gov/content/tenantprotection/pages/new-protections-for-rent-regulated-tenants

That law ended so-called vacancy decontrol, in which property owners could remove vacant apartments from regulation after rents reached \$2,774 a month...Here's how to get your unit's rent history record from the state's Housing and Community Renewal agency, or HCR: The simplest way is to request your rent history through HCR's online portal by clicking portal.hcr.ny.gov/app/ask, then choosing "Apartment Rent History" and filling out your apartment's information. Your rent history will be printed and mailed to your address...A process called "substantial rehabilitation" allows landlords to take whole buildings out of rent stabilization if they can prove a "deteriorated state" and replace 75% of the building systems...Over a decade ago, the state created a "proactive law enforcement office" called the Tenant Protection Unit (TPU) to encourage compliance with rent regulation laws and investigate rent stabilization fraud. hcr.ny.gov/tenant-protection-unit

Mapping luxury condos with the most unsold units in New York (paywall)

December 22, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Joe Lovinger, research By Matthew Elo

Top developers weather years of low activity at primo apartment towers across city...In total, there are 4,414 unsold condos in the city, according to data from TRD Pro.

(opinion) New York City Needs Housing for Everyone, Not More Shelter Beds

December 7, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Scott Short, CEO of RiseBoro Community Partnership

What's clear is that both our insufficient temporary and permanent housing systems fail those most in need. If we are to turn back the tide on this growing crisis, the path to preventing and solving homelessness runs through creating a new paradigm for housing people...If we are to solve this crisis permanently, we must shift our mindset from a right to shelter to a right to housing...Affordable means rent is no more than 30% of a household's income, the federal standard. Everyone needs an affordable place to live, and when we dedicate such a large share of our resources to shelters over permanent housing, we miss the opportunity to end homelessness...Creating enough housing is no doubt an expensive proposition, but inaction will cost us far more...we should start by reforming New York's byzantine zoning and land use processes so that all neighborhoods share the responsibility of building additional housing...we must address our outdated property tax system...we must invest more in the production of affordable housing...New York can't make this shift on its own...loss of needed federal funding continues to hamstring local efforts to reverse the homelessness crisis and provide enough quality, affordable housing for everyone.

Regional Plan Association (RPA) 2022 Annual Report s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/rpa-org/pdfs/RPA-Annual-Report-FY2022.pdf

Highlights include:

- Advancing land use reforms to create desperately needed safe, healthy affordable housing in all three states
 - Identifying measures to protect at-risk residents in basement apartments and other vulnerable housing from deadly weather events
 - Strengthening New York City's Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs to better support businesses and communities
 - Developing a design vision for transforming Rikers Island from an institution of criminal injustice into a green infrastructure hub
 - Advocating for equitable transportation, through expansions such as the proposed Interborough Express, Penn Station Access, Gateway Program, and better bus service
 - Fighting for congestion pricing implementation to alleviate worsening car and truck traffic, improve air quality, and raise funds for public transit
-

Elections, voting & appointments

Outgoing Rep. Carolyn Maloney will be the next president of the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women

City and State email, cityandstateny.com, December 27, 2022

[Hector LaSalle nominated to become New York's chief judge](#)

December 22, 2022, gothamist.com, by Jon Campbell

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul on Thursday selected Hector LaSalle to become chief judge of the state Court of Appeals, a key position that would make him the state's top jurist and put him in

charge of the entire court system—if the Senate confirms his nomination...The son of Puerto Rican parents, LaSalle would be the first Latino to serve as chief judge, according to Hochul’s office. He will now face a confirmation process in the state Senate, where Democrats have vowed to heavily scrutinize Hochul’s pick for the position after growing dissatisfied with the direction of the Court of Appeals—the state’s top court—in recent years.

[Hochul names acting health commissioner](#)

December 22, 2022, *timesunion.com*, by Rachel Silberstein

Dr. James McDonald tapped to lead New York State Department of Health when current commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett steps down in January.

Allowing voters more time to register and vote ahead of an election

Governor’s press release, December 23, 2022

Governor Hochul today signed legislation (S.2951A/A.8858A) that increases access to the ballot by allowing voters more time to register and vote ahead of an election. The new legislation allows voters to cast a ballot in an election if their registration forms are received by the board of elections by the tenth day ahead of an election, as compared to the twenty-five days ahead of an election currently mandated by law...The New York State Constitution stipulates that voters must register to vote at least 10 days prior to an election in which they wish to cast a ballot. However, New York's current election law unnecessarily extends this minimum deadline, requiring that voter registration forms be submitted in person at least twenty-five days prior to an election or postmarked at least twenty-five days in advance and received by the board of elections by 20 days prior to an election. This shrinks by more than two weeks the amount of time that eligible New Yorkers have to submit their registration forms and make their voices heard in an election. Under the legislation signed by Governor Hochul today, this overly restrictive timeline will be addressed and voter registration deadlines will be moved closer to Election Day and into alignment with the standard set by the State Constitution. Voters will be eligible to vote in an election if they register in person by 10 days prior to an election; voters submitting registration forms by mail will be eligible to vote in an election if their forms are postmarked by 15 days prior to the election and received by the board of elections by 10 days prior to an election.

Budget, finances & taxes

CITY

NYC property tax rebate

If you’re doing your 2022 taxes now, the deadline to apply for a \$150 NYC property tax rebate has been extended to 3/15/23 for homeowners who couldn’t apply by the 11/15 deadline due to an extenuating circumstance. If your property is your primary residence and your adjusted gross

household income is \$250,000 or less, you may be entitled to a property tax rebate. If you think you qualify, visit: www.nyc.gov/propertytaxrebate.

FEDERAL

The House passed a \$1.65 trillion omnibus spending bill, narrowly averting a government shutdown.

Source: Wall Street Journal email, December 23, 2022, by Zlati Meyer

[The legislation](#), which funds the federal government for the full 2023 fiscal year, cleared the Senate yesterday and now goes to President Biden for his signature. Included in the bill are military spending, aid for Ukraine, changes to the 1887 Electoral Count Act, revisions to the U.S. retirement system, a wider TikTok ban for government devices and more FDA oversight of the cosmetics industry. The vote—225 to 201—was the last act of the current, Democratic-controlled Congress.

Related: [Bill Signed: H.R. 2617 the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023”](#)

President’s briefing report, December 29, 2022

With a shout-out to Majority Leader Schumer for his leadership.

Related: [Federal spending bill to include \\$800M in grants for cities dealing with migrant crisis](#)

December 20, 2022, *politico.com*, by Erin Durkin

The funding can pay the cost of shelter, food, transportation, basic health and first aid, Covid-19 testing and other supportive services to asylum seekers...Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer negotiated the money as part of a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill expected to pass by the end of the week.

CITY

[Backlash erupts in NYC Council after Mayor Adams threatens nonprofit cuts](#)

December 21, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Elizabeth Kim

A clash over discretionary funding for nonprofits has become the latest sign of a growing rift between Mayor Eric Adams and members of the City Council who will vote whether to approve proposed budget cuts next month.

Related: [NYC public libraries say proposed budget cuts may 'push us over the edge'](#)

December 9, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Arya Sundaram

Library branches across the city might be subject to cuts under the city's Program the Eliminate the Gap. New York City's public libraries may have to cut staff, hours, branches and programming as they face potential multi-million-dollar budget cuts in Mayor Eric Adams' plan to curtail city spending. Under the administration's so-called Program to Eliminate the Gap, city libraries could face a total of \$13.6 million in reductions for the current fiscal year (ending in June 2023) and \$20.5 million in each of the next three fiscal years.

Related: [NYC budget watchdog group forecasts \\$2 billion surplus, defying mayor's gloomy projections](#)

December 19, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Elizabeth Kim

New York City is on track to end its current fiscal year with a “sizable” budget surplus of more than \$2 billion, countering gloomier projections from Mayor Eric Adams and City Comptroller Brad Lander, according to a new analysis by the Independent Budget Office, a nonpartisan budget watchdog group. The IBO’s forecast, which was released on Monday, predicts there will be slower economic growth in the coming months, but not a recession, which is defined as a significant decline in economic activity.

CITY / FEDERAL

[Mayor Adams says NYC is not prepared for influx of migrants as federal rule expires](#)

December 18, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Jake Offenhartz

In a statement on Sunday, Adams predicted the Dec. 21 expiration of Title 42, a federal policy used by both the Biden and Trump administrations to prevent asylum seekers from entering the U.S. during a public health emergency, would lead to 1,000 additional migrants coming to New York each week.

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

FEDERAL

[Biden outpacing Trump, Obama with diverse judicial nominees](#)

December 29, 2022, *apnews.com*, by Seung Min Kim and Colleen Long

The White House and Democratic senators are closing out the first two years of Biden’s presidency having installed more federal judges than did Biden’s two immediate predecessors. The rapid clip reflects a zeal to offset Donald Trump’s legacy of stacking the judiciary with young conservatives who often lacked in racial diversity. So far, 97 lifetime federal judges have been confirmed under Biden...Three out of every four judges tapped by Biden and confirmed by the Senate in the past two years were women. About two-thirds were people of color.

FEDERAL

[Judge rules NY gun ban in places of worship is unconstitutional, but restriction remains for now](#)

December 30, 2022, *gothamist.com*, by Samantha Max

In an order filed on Thursday in the Western District of New York, federal Judge John L. Sinatra, Jr. said the state’s new concealed carry law violates the Second Amendment, goes against U.S.

Supreme Court precedent, and could cause irreparable harm to a pastor and his church. Sinatra's decision comes about two months after a similar decision in another case challenging New York's Concealed Carry Improvement Act. Both rulings have been placed on hold while the state appeals, meaning that guns are still prohibited in places of worship for the time being.

FEDERAL

[Supreme Court keeps immigration limits in place indefinitely](#)

December 27, 2022, *apnews.com*, by Rebecca Santana and Elliot Spagat

In a ruling Tuesday, the Supreme Court extended a temporary stay...Under the court's order, the case will be argued in February and the stay will be maintained until the justices decide the case.

STATE

[Registration system for contractors and subcontractors](#)

Source: Press release, December 30, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation (S.5994C/A.1338C) into law, establishing a registration system for contractors and subcontractors engaged in public work and covered private projects in order to provide additional transparency and better enforce existing labor laws and regulations.

STATE

[First Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Sales in State History](#)

Source: Governor's press release, December 29, 2022

The historic sales occurred at Housing Works Cannabis Co., a[n East Village] dispensary owned by a NYC nonprofit dedicated to the HIV/AIDS community, the homeless, & formerly incarcerated New Yorkers.

STATE

[New York State Living Donors Support Act](#)

Governor's press release, December 29, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation (S.1594/A.146A) into law, enacting the New York State Living Donors Support Act, the first state program in the nation allowing individuals to be reimbursed for the costs of kidney and liver donations. Legislation (S.1594/A.146A) amends the public health, tax, and social services laws to enact the "New York State Living Donor Support Act," which would establish a program to cover extra costs associated with organ donation for New York residents who donate to a fellow New Yorker. It works to eliminate financial barriers to organ donation to reduce wait times for organ transplants and address the organ shortage in New York. This legislation is intended to help eliminate barriers to organ donation, in order to bring New York up from its low rank in organ donation among states. There are currently 8,569 people on transplant wait lists, 7,234 of whom are awaiting a kidney.

STATE

[Lay Individuals to Become One-Day Marriage Officiants Capable of Performing a Marriage in the State of New York](#)

Governor's press release, December 28, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation (S.739A/A.6300A) [creating] a pathway for lay individuals to become one-day marriage officiants capable of performing a marriage in the State of New York.

STATE

[Governor Kathy Hochul today announced expanded financial assistance and protections for victims and survivors of crime](#)

Governor's press release, December 27, 2022

Package of New Laws Proposed by the State Office of Victim Services and Signed by Governor Hochul This Summer Now Effective...Individuals Who Are Victims of "Revenge Porn," and First- And Second-Degree Reckless Endangerment, Who File Claims on or After December 27, 2022, Now Eligible To Seek Compensation for Certain Crime-Related Costs...Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence May Now Use Additional Documents and Information To Prove Identity Theft Before Debt Collection Can Occur.

While eligibility for compensation or reimbursement is determined by an individual's income and access to other resources, such as health insurance, victim assistance programs provide services and support at no cost to anyone who needs them. Visit the [Office of Victim Services'](#) website for more information and follow the agency on Twitter and Facebook.

New York State also provides 24/7 support for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Call 800-942-6906; text 844-997-2121; or chat at [opdv.ny.gov](#).

STATE

[Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation establishing Carlos' Law.](#)

Governor's press release, December 23, 2022

The legislation (S.621B/A.4947B) amends the New York State Penal Law to increase the penalties for criminal corporate liability for the death or serious physical injury of an employee, a felony or misdemeanor, by a fine of up to \$500,000...Carlos' Law (S.621B/A.4947B) creates greater accountability for tragic and avoidable injury to workers at New York construction sites. Under the new legislation, a corporation is guilty of criminal corporate liability for the death or injury of a worker when it negligently, recklessly, intentionally, or knowingly causes the death or serious physical injury of its employees while they are on the job. The legislation is named after Carlos Moncayo, a 22-year-old construction worker who tragically died at a New York City construction site in 2015.

STATE

Protecting NYS energy grid against cyber threats

Governor's press release, December 23, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation (A.3904B/S.5579A) that will create strongest-in-the-nation cybersecurity protections for the state's energy grid. This action, taken during a global surge in cyberattacks against critical infrastructure, will ensure New York's grid, the backbone of the state's economy, remains reliable and secure...Legislation A.3904B/S.5579A, which passed unanimously in both the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate, strengthens protections for the local distribution system and requires utilities to secure critical infrastructure against cyberattacks. The legislation will require utilities to prepare for cyberattacks in their annual emergency response plans - similar to what utilities do to prepare for storms. The new protections will provide the Public Service Commission enhanced auditing powers to ensure that critical infrastructure and customer data is secured. This action comes following guidance from President Joe Biden requesting that state's set minimum cybersecurity requirements for critical infrastructure, including the energy system. In several instances over the past decade, cyberattacks have proven capable of shutting down electric grids.

STATE

Establishing statewide rape kit tracking system

Governor's press release, December 22, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation (S7867-A/A9596-A) to establish a statewide electronic tracking system for sexual offense evidence collection kits, commonly known as rape kits. This tracking system will ensure that all survivors of sexual assault have access to information about the status and location of their kits...Legislation (S7867-A/A9596-A) directs the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to create a tracking system for kits in the custody of law enforcement agencies. This tracking system will allow survivors to access information about the status of their rape kit and will be critical to ensure accountability for timely processing.

Related: [Massive fire breaks out at NYPD storage facility, 8 people injured](#)

December 13, 2022, [abcnews.go.com](#), by Teddy Grant

The NYPD said that the Erie Basin facility contains highly combustible items such as cars, motorcycles and E-bikes as well as biological evidence, including DNA and evidence from crimes... Officials said they don't know the extent of the damage and that some of the evidence goes back decades.

STATE

[Mayor requests changes to criminal background check bill](#)

December 9, 2022, [therealdeal.com](#), by Kathryn Brenzel

Real estate groups suggest city model policy after Detroit, other cities...

During a press conference Thursday, [Mayor Eric] Adams reiterated his support for the [ban on criminal background checks] bill's concept but voiced concerns about public safety. He said he

supports allowing landlords to review criminal history for specific types of offenses committed during a limited range of years. "No one should be denied housing based on their records, but I want to make sure residents in ... small [buildings] get the protection that they deserve."

STATE

New York State Division of Human Rights is launching a statewide Hate and Bias Prevention Unit

Governor's press release, December 12, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the New York State Division of Human Rights is launching a statewide Hate and Bias Prevention Unit, which is charged with leading public education and outreach efforts, serving as an early warning detection system in local communities, and quickly mobilizing to support areas and communities in which a bias incident has occurred. The Hate and Bias Prevention Unit is launching today...As part of this new Unit's mandate, the Division is organizing 10 regional councils across the state made up of local stakeholders. These councils will provide a place for community members to share concerns, organize educational programming, host hate crime prevention and community healing events, conduct trainings in conflict resolution, and facilitate the filing of complaints with the Division and other relevant agencies. The Unit also will develop a rapid response team to assist communities affected by a bias or hate incident. The Hate and Bias Prevention Unit also will be responsible for establishing and implementing a statewide campaign promoting acceptance, inclusion, tolerance, and understanding of diversity, as required by legislation signed last month by Governor Hochul. The campaign will coordinate and cooperate with public and private organizations, including, but not limited to, local governments, community groups, school districts, places of worship, charitable organizations, and foundations and will develop educational materials to be published on the internet, social media, and other platforms to reach the public...The Division annually investigates more than 5,000 complaints of discrimination from individuals across the state. The agency also has the authority to initiate investigations and file complaints alleging violations of the state anti-discrimination law and last year, the Division secured more than \$6.2 million in monetary damages for individuals who have experienced discrimination. The Division also works with the New York State Police to educate New Yorkers on the State's hate crimes laws. New York [is] the first state in the nation to enact a Human Rights Law, affording every citizen "an equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life."

CITY

[City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams summarizes the Council's accomplishments](#) to make our city a safer, healthier, and more equitable place for all in 2022:

A SAFER, HEALTHIER CITY

- Preventing Gun Violence
- Safeguarding Abortion & Advancing Reproductive Health Care
- Strengthening Fire Safety
- Addressing Disparities in Maternal Health, Mortality & Morbidity
- Supporting Survivors of Domestic & Gender-Based Violence
- Examining the City & State's Efforts to Improve Subway Safety
- Combating Hate Crimes
- Expanding Health & Opportunity for New Yorkers

- Addressing the Ongoing Challenges of COVID-19
- Responding to the Monkeypox Outbreak
- Demanding a Full Accounting of the Arsenic Water Scare at Jacob Riis Houses
- Cracking Down on Catalytic Converter Theft
- Examining the Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD

A MORE EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE CITY

- Addressing the City's Migrant Crisis
- Closing the Wage Gap & Achieving Pay Equity
- Securing a Fair & Equitable Budget
- Improving Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity at the FDNY
- Increasing Language Access & Expanding Opportunities for New Yorkers with Disabilities
- Placing Racial Justice & Equity at the Heart of City Government
- Promoting Economic Opportunity & Stability
- Ensuring More Equitable Access to Quality Parks
- Making the City's Transportation System More Equitable
- Examining the City's Use of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds
- Addressing Pay Disparities in the City's Municipal Workforce
- Kicking Off the 12th Cycle of Participatory Budgeting

A MORE LIVABLE CITY

- Confronting the City's Affordable Housing Crisis (NYC Council Speaker's Report: [Expanding Health and Opportunity for New Yorkers](#))
- Extending the City's Rent Stabilization Law
- Taking Action Against Rats
- Ensuring Cleaner Sidewalks & Streets
- Increasing Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care
- Making Con Ed More Accountable to City Customers
- Supporting Small Businesses & Improving the Empty Storefront Registry
- Paving the Way for More Public Restrooms & Greenways
- Improving the City's 311 System
- Securing Base-Lined Funding for Fair Fares
- Addressing School Bus Delays
- Assessing the State of Early Childhood Programs in NYC

CITY

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine summarizes his accomplishments in his first year in office:

- Collecting, organizing, and distributing thousands of pounds of donated clothing and essentials to migrants sent to New York City
- Fighting for strong public health policy, to contain the covid crisis, beat back the mpox outbreak, and more
- Appointing hundreds of local leaders, reflective of the diversity of their neighborhoods, to lead on Community Boards throughout Manhattan
- Passing legislation to curb rat infestations
- Passing legislation to identify locations for public bathrooms in every ZIP code

- Working to create more space for pedestrians in our streets, and to improve safety for all—from pedestrianizing Broadway and 5th Avenue, to reducing the impact of e-commerce on our bus lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks
- Pushing to make New York City more resilient, from launching a campaign to plant one million more trees, to creating an agency that better governs our waterfront infrastructure so that we are prepared for climate change
- Launching a \$2 million small business loan fund in partnership with the Hebrew Free Loan Society to help small businesses fighting to recover from the pandemic

MBP Levine will give his (in-person) State of The Borough address on **Tuesday, January 31, at 6pm** at The City College of New York (CCNY). Learn more and RSVP at eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-borough-president-mark-d-levines-state-of-the-borough-address-tickets-500225256207.

Stories we are following

IMMIGRATION / ECONOMY

(opinion) [The Solution to Our Labor Shortage is Clear: Remove Barriers to Immigrant Employment](#)

December 20, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Brad Hoylman & Catalina Cruz

What many politicians and power brokers fail to recognize is that the economy is closely intertwined with the health and efficiency of our nation's immigration system. That's especially true here in New York City, where immigrants are as critical to our prosperity as Wall Street...how would a more efficient immigration system and sufficient federal resources help the economy? It's quite easy: it's the most efficient way to balance the labor shortage...One simple solution to ease the burden is to support migrant workers with easier pathways into the labor market.

HEALTHCARE

Trillions and trillions

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis, *bloombergbusiness.com*, December 21, 2022

Each December, a group of economists and actuaries in an obscure federal office emerge with a new report estimating how much the US spent on health-care the year before. The most recent report, covering 2021, put the tab at \$4.3 trillion, or about \$13,000 for every American...That \$4.3 trillion is about 18% of gross domestic product...Those trillions currently come out of all of our pockets either directly, in what we pay at the doctor's office or for hospital bills, or indirectly, through insurance premiums and taxes that support government health programs. It gets worse. The high spending doesn't buy better health. US life expectancy at birth is the lowest of big wealthy countries and dropped starkly during Covid-19. The flip side of spending is income. Someone's on the receiving end of all those trillions. American doctors earn more money than their counterparts abroad. Hospitals, many nominally nonprofits, consolidate into giant systems and sweep up physician practices. Insurers form vertically integrated companies that increasingly deliver medical care and drugs, aiming to capture a greater share of the health-care dollar. Investors bet on high-risk science to produce new drugs knowing they can make fortunes charging whatever the market will

bear if they succeed. With money and consolidation comes political power to influence policy and regulation. That influence can make the system harder for advocates to change policy through the political process, while consolidation can squelch competition in the marketplace. From the perspective of the families, employers and governments who pay for all this, it's a broken system growing more expensive each year with no fix in sight. But for a lot of companies on the receiving end of that \$4.3 trillion, it's working just fine.



A rendering of a new Link5G pole in Brooklyn. At least 90 such towers are being planned for blocks across the five boroughs. (Office of Technology and Innovation)

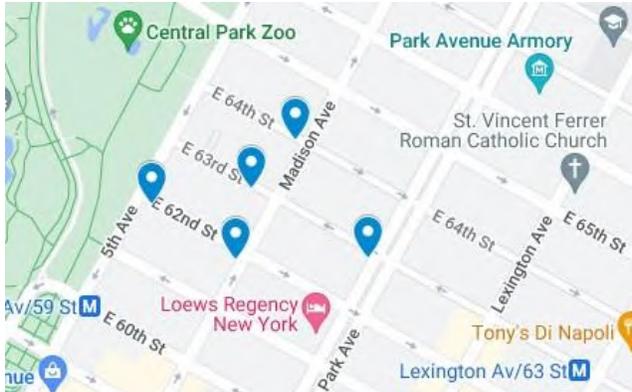
[Huge 5G Towers Are Coming To These NYC Corners: MAP](#)

December 16, 2022, *patch.com*, by Nick Garber

Patch identified the 90 NYC blocks where the city wants to install gargantuan 32-foot-tall 5G poles in the coming months...The 32-foot-tall 5G poles are part of the city's LinkNYC program, which aims to "bridge the digital divide" by expanding high-speed internet service across the five boroughs, including to underserved neighborhoods with low rates of broadband access...They have been met with fierce pushback in some neighborhoods, however, as residents object to the towers' bulkiness and aesthetic impact. Read the article to see the map.

See the public dataset list data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/LinkNYC-New-Site-Permit-Applications/xp25-gxux/data.

Editor's note: Some of the new kiosks will be in the West Village and Upper East Side historic districts. The proposed locations in the so-called Manhattan business district seem to be tourist-oriented locations. It would be nice if the city required a "historic district" design for the towers, more in keeping with the context of the districts. See maps below.



Proposed Link-5G tower locations



Corresponding map showing Upper East Side Historic District

[UN calls on Taliban to drop restrictions on women](#)

December 28, 2022, [apnews.com](#)

BERLIN (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday decried increasing restrictions on women’s rights in Afghanistan, urging the country’s Taliban rulers to reverse them immediately. The Security Council “reiterated its deep concern of the suspension of schools beyond the sixth grade, and its call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in Afghanistan”... U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk pointed to “terrible consequences” of a decision to bar women from working for non-governmental organizations.

Useful COVID-19 information

New York State and NYC 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://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

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

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

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)

New York State Department of Health Covid information coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

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.

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

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

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

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.

Vaccination data can be found on www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page.

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. 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, call 212-COVID19, or text COVID TEST to 855-48.

For Murray Hill/Kips Bay - Covid PCR tests

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.

At-home rapid test kits are now readily available. Most insurance plans cover 8 free test kits per month per person, including Medicare. See your local pharmacist to find out if they and your plan are participating.

See murrayhillnyc.org for COVID-19 information, article on [Coronavirus](#).

The NYC Citywide Information Portal

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

The MHNA Discount Program

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

[Restaurant and Food Discounts](#)

[General Discounts](#)

Our government representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

NYC Council Member Julie Menin, Council District 5: council.nyc.gov/julie-menin, 212-788-6865, District5@council.nyc.gov.

NYC Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams (speaker) SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov, 718-206-2068 council.nyc.gov/district-28.

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine: manhattanbp.nyc.gov, 212-669-8300, info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

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

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

Dan Garodnick, Director, Department of City Planning, 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10271, Tel. 212-720-3480, Fax. 212-720-3488, Email via website at www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/email-the-director.page

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

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

New York Senate website nysenate.gov.

New York State Assembly website nyassembly.gov.

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

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

Alex Bores, Assembly District 73, replaces Dan Quart on January 1, 2023, 212-605-0937, (no email available at this time), nyassembly.gov/mem/Alex-Bores/contact.

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

Tony Simone, Assembly District 75, Simone replaces 52-year incumbent, Richard N. Gottfried, on January 1, 2023, SimoneT@nyassembly.gov, 212-807-7900.

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

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

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

U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler, New York's (redrawn) 12th Congressional District. Manhattan Office: 201 Varick Street, Suite 669, New York, NY 10014, Phone: 212-367-7350, website contact form nadler.house.gov/contact.

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

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

U.S. President Joseph Biden: website contact form: whitehouse.gov/contact
The White House site whitehouse.gov is once more a trusted source for news on legislation, press releases, White House press briefings, and more. Presidential actions whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions.

You can also find these weekly newsletters online in PDF (printable) format at www.murrayhillnyc.org in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2022.

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please [join/renew](#) now**

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The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

or because you have signed up to receive our emails.

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with "Remove" in the subject.

