



# Murray Hill

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## News for Murray Hill...January 16, 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](http://www.murrayhillnyc.org), scroll down the Also Happening column.

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### Join The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

Murray Hill is the Heart at the Center of Manhattan

Be a part of it!

[Join the MHNA here](#)

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## January 16 is Martin Luther King day.

### MLK, Jr. Day is a National Day of Service.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was a highly influential civil rights leader in the 1960s. King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through nonviolence and civil disobedience. Inspired by his Christian beliefs...he led targeted, nonviolent resistance against Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination. (Wikipedia, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.))

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Government offices, banks, post office branches, schools will be closed.

Alternate Side Parking will also be suspended on January 16th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. However, you still need to feed the meter.

There will be no collection of trash or recycling on January 16th. If your collection day falls on this day, please check DSNY's social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram), their [press release page](#), or 311 for more information.

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## Transportation and traffic advisories

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

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### [MTA's East Side Access project delayed again due to vent problems](#)

January 11, 2023, *gothamist.com*, by Stephen Nessen

The long-delayed launch of the MTA's East Side Access service could be pushed beyond January due to an issue with an exhaust fan in the new station.

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### [NYC could drop speed limits below 25 mph under Hochul proposal](#)

January 10, 2023, *gothamist.com*, by Clayton Guse

Gov. Kathy Hochul...proposed legislation to allow New York City to lower speed limits below 25 mph...would alter current state law ...“Giving New York City the autonomy to change its speed limit can help the city determine how best to safeguard its own streets,” Hochul’s office wrote in a briefing. The proposal mirrors legislation proposed in 2020 by Manhattan state Sen. Brad Hoylman that would give the city more control over its speed limits...The policy change has long been supported by street safety advocates, who point to research that shows lower speed limits reduce deadly car crashes.

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## Scam alert for the Korean community!



FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION

Does someone have  
secret money to give you?  
If you pay them a fee?  
That's a scam.

Report it: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

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FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION

누군가 귀하께 송금할  
비자금이 있다고 하나요?  
수수료를 지불하기만 하면요?  
이는 사기입니다.

사기를 신고하세요: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

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[Learn more.](#)

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**Scam alert—Don't answer online quiz  
questions until you read this!**

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[Learn more](#)

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## Debt Relief Shortcuts Often Lead to Scammers

January 11, 2023, AARP Fraud Prevention

Getting yourself out of debt can be hard work. Be wary of offers for guaranteed quick fixes.

### How It Works

- You may see ads on TV or online, or get a mailer or phone call offering to fix whatever debt woes you might have.
- They may claim they can remove bankruptcies, liens and bad loans from your record, or even erase a bad credit history completely – maybe even help you start over to look like a better risk to lenders.
- The offer may require an upfront payment.
- They may tell you to stop making payments on your credit cards or mortgage, and to send payments directly to them as part of the process of relieving your debt.

### What You Should Know

- Sadly, fake debt repair offers put many consumers seeking relief into even more debt.
- Nobody can get legitimate negative information off your credit report. Delinquencies and defaults stay on it for at least seven years.
- Legitimate debt repair companies cannot require upfront payment by law.
- Even legitimate offers may tell you to stop paying your creditors as a negotiation tactic, but the creditor is under no obligation to negotiate and you'll rack up interest charges and penalties.

### What You Should Do

- If you need help addressing debt, proactively look for options rather than responding to an ad or other incoming offer.
- The nonprofit National Foundation for Credit Counseling ([nfcc.org](https://www.nfcc.org)) can refer you to a financial counselor who can help you tackle debt in a way that works best for you.
- Know your rights. Federal law requires companies to give you a written contract that spells out the services they will perform, what you'll pay and how long it will take to get results.

- If you've experienced a debt relief scam, first file a police report. If you meet with resistance, persist. This will give you a record of the losses that may prove useful if restitution is possible at a later date.
  - The Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offer background and guidance on debt settlement, credit counseling and other ways to get out from under financial liabilities.
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## News from neighborhood businesses & nonprofits

Tuesdays 7:30pm

### (hybrid) **The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York resumes hybrid Bible study**

(virtually and in-person) Join on Zoom at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88151404905?pwd=UXhwSnR5YVdxTVg3ZU5nWHNlSkpWQT09#succ>  
ess. Contact [info@aecnyc.org](mailto:info@aecnyc.org) if you have questions.

Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

152 East 34th Street (between Lexington & 3rd Avenue)

[aecnyc.org](http://aecnyc.org)

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January 19 6 – 8pm

### **Shop to support “Earning Hands”**

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Earning Hands is a program of [Women Development Services](#), a ministry of the Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan. Through this program, women who have been exploited in the sex trade develop skills that enable them to earn an income, raise their families out of poverty, and break the cycle of generational prostitution. Items created by Pakistani women in the Earning Hands sewing and embroidery workshop – including clothing, scarves, handbags and jewelry – will be on display and available for purchase in the Parish House. Accepted forms of payment include credit card, personal check and cash. Refreshments will be served. [Click here to RSVP by evite](#) and share the link with friends.

at Church of the Incarnation Parish House  
209 Madison Ave. (between 35<sup>th</sup> & 36<sup>th</sup> Street)

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**January 20 6pm**

### **Metropolitan Synagogue Family Concert & Shabbat Services**

Join Rabbi Plaut and Sephardi virtuoso and singer Avram Pengas for a monthly concert of Jewish music and in-person Shabbat services. Please bring a friend or two – all ages welcome! RSVP to: [inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org](mailto:inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org).

at Scandinavia House  
58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Streets)

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### **Villa Berulia Restaurant**

Featuring:

**Restaurant Week** (January 17 - February 12): \$30 Lunch / \$45 Dinner

10% Discount for Murray Hill Association members

Happy Hour (3pm-7pm)

Outdoor Seating

Private Party Room

Villa Berulia

107 East 34th Street

(between Lexington & Park Avenue)

Tuesday – Friday 11:30am – 10:00pm

Saturday 4:00pm – 10:00pm

212-689-1970

[villaberulia.com](http://villaberulia.com)

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**January 17 - February 12**

### **Fine & Rare will be participating in Restaurant Week**

\$60 per person + tax

Available Sunday to Friday, Saturday excluded, make reservations at [fineandrare.nyc/restaurant-week](http://fineandrare.nyc/restaurant-week).

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**Maryel's Summer Immersion Program** is a fun and easy way for children ages 3-10 to learn how to speak and understand Spanish. Enrollment for Summer 2023 is OPEN! Their summer camp is full of activities that allow children to explore, learn and have fun all at once! Based on the school's full immersion model, the Spanish language is introduced through theme-based stories and activities. Bilingual teachers help students become accustomed to the sounds and rhythms of the language by means of singing, speaking and acting. No prior knowledge of Spanish is required to attend Maryel's Summer Camp. Weekly registrations are available.

Manhattan Campus : 300 East 35th Street

[maryelschool.org](http://maryelschool.org)

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through February 12

### **NYC Hotel Week**

See hotel deals for Murray Hill, Kips Bay and Midtown East hotels at [nycgo.com/nyc-hotel-week/?neighborhood=kips-bay,midtown-east,murray-hill](http://nycgo.com/nyc-hotel-week/?neighborhood=kips-bay,midtown-east,murray-hill).

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January 17 – February 12

### **NYC Restaurant Week**

See restaurant deals for Murray Hill, Kips Bay and Midtown East at [nycgo.com/things-to-do/restaurants-dining/?neighborhood=kips-bay,midtown-east,murray-hill](http://nycgo.com/things-to-do/restaurants-dining/?neighborhood=kips-bay,midtown-east,murray-hill).

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January 17 – February 12

### **NYC Broadway Week**

Browse and purchase tickets at [nycgo.com/broadway-show-tickets-nyc](http://nycgo.com/broadway-show-tickets-nyc).

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## **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](http://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.



The graphic features the Federal Trade Commission logo and text on a blue and yellow background. The text reads: '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](https://ftc.gov/charity)'. There is an illustration of a hand holding two coins.

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## COVID-19 updates

Data taken on **1/15/23** from the COVID-19 page on the NYC Department of Health website [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page](http://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. The Health Commissioner strongly recommends 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](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov). Get the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster. 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 public settings.



- [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](#).

Travel may involve crowds and going to places with high levels of COVID-19, flu or RSV. Whether you travel by plane, bus or train, wear a high-quality mask in public settings and while aboard vehicles. Consider additional precautions if you are traveling with or visiting older adults, infants and people with weakened immune systems or underlying health conditions.

NOTE: CDC also recommends: Good [ventilation](#)

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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](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html).

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## Trends

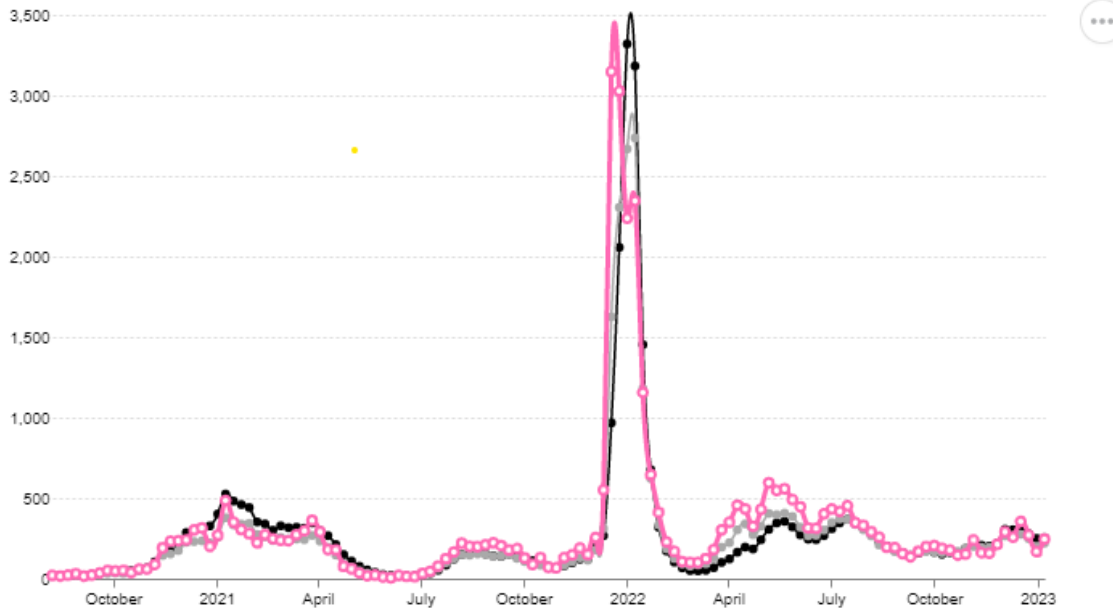
Data taken on **1/15/23** from NYC Department of Health Covid Data page [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-neighborhoods.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-neighborhoods.page) compares case rates for zip code 10016, Manhattan and NYC.

## 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**



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Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email of January 12, 2023, [bloombergbusiness.com](https://www.bloombergbusiness.com)

**The US again extended the Covid public health emergency**, maintaining measures that expanded access to health care for millions of Americans.

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## New Year, New CDC?

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email of January 12, 2023, [bloombergbusiness.com](https://www.bloombergbusiness.com)

Rochelle Walensky, head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has spent months reflecting on what the agency could have done better throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. That's left her with a long list of New Year's resolutions for the CDC. They include things like communicating

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more clearly, responding quicker, being more transparent and accountable. She also wants the CDC to listen more closely to others' needs, be a better partner and collaborator, and share data faster.

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## Free at-home rapid COVID tests from the Federal government (winter 2022 round) are now available.

Order them at [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests).

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

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## Kudos!

### Marshall Wise's Music Website

Marshall M. Wise is pleased to share his website link for the new songs which he recorded in 2022: [marshallwise.com/new-releases](https://marshallwise.com/new-releases). Below is a link to listen to all the songs on the website: [marshallwise.com/all-songs](https://marshallwise.com/all-songs). Here is the index, which has details of every song: [marshallwise.com/song-list](https://marshallwise.com/song-list). For your convenience when you click on any song, all songs will then automatically be played without interruption. Please share the website link with family and friends. Your comments will be most appreciated. Marshall is a Murray Hill resident, he has had three careers: Cantor, accountant, and founder & principal of his own insurance agency, and he is also a former MHNA trustee. **Congratulations, Marshall on your new release!**

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### Thanks to CB6 Staff for helping to get graffiti removed!

Source: Community Board 6 January 2023 newsletter email, January 10, 2023

CB6 staff noticed that a building on the west side of the FDR Drive, just north of the 37th Street FDR Drive Underpass, had graffiti on it. CB6 reached out to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), which runs the [Graffiti-Free NYC program](#) (a program whose restoration CB6 advocated for in their budget request process when it became a victim of pandemic-era budget cuts). Because of this effort, crews came out last week to address the graffiti, and it is now gone!

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## Murray Hill trivia

References to Murray Hill in the vintage movie **Grand Central Murder** (1942), with Van Heflin, Patricia Dane, director S. Sylvan Simon. There is a reference to a Murray Hill phone number, (hint) phone numbers beginning in 212-68\* are old Murray Hill phone numbers from the time when area

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codes were not required, and the first digits of a phone number were letters, “MU” (68) stood for Murray Hill. And in the olden days, people could have “private cars” meaning private train cars on the Grand Central railroad. The movie also features shots of Grand Central Terminal (actually studio shots), and the surrounding neighborhood, Hollywood style. The murder weapon also involves a Grand Central Terminal feature.

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## For businesses, nonprofits & buildings

January 18 5pm

### **Grant Information Session for small businesses and community based organizations**

For-profit and non-profit community-based organizations can apply for micro-grants from Citizens Committee for NYC (CCNYC) of up to \$10,000. Click the link to register. For questions about small business grants, email [businessgrants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:businessgrants@citizensnyc.org); for community action grants, email [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org). Co-sponsored by Council Members Shaun Abreu and Gale Brewer, and the Citizens Committee for New York City. CitizensNYC awards micro-grants to everyday New Yorkers to help them improve the quality of life for their neighbors. [info@citizensnyc.org](mailto:info@citizensnyc.org), 212-989-0909.

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### **Government contracting (veterans)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) began accepting applications through the [Veteran Small Business Certification](#) (VetCert) program as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to expanding access to resources for Veterans and other underserved populations.

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### **[Securing Small and Medium-Sized Business \(SMB\) Supply Chains: A Resource Handbook to Reduce Information and Communication Technology Risks.](#)**

Developed by the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) Task Force, the handbook provides an overview of the highest supply chain risk categories commonly faced by ICT SMBs, including cyber risks. The handbook was designed to provide supply chain guidance to SMBs that may have limited finances, share resources on how to enhance the SMB reporting and vetting processes when purchasing ICT, and offer methods and guidance to tackle the most common and highest priority risks faced by SMBs. Learn more.

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**To a rat, this is  
a five-star restaurant.**



**Ongoing**

(virtual) [January 26 6 – 8pm](#)

(virtual) [January 31 5 – 7pm](#)

### **NYC Department of Health Rat Academy Trainings**

Community Training: This free course is open to anyone who wants to learn about rat management.

Learn more at [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/rats-control-training.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/rats-control-training.page).

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### **The New York City Mayor’s Center for Communications (CenCom) Team’s**

**challenge to you in the year ahead:** make 2023 the year you make stuff. And if when you do, please share it with them so they can feature it in their [#CenComSpotlight series](#). Good luck!

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### **[The Next Generation of Solar Is Lighter, Better, and Cheaper](#)**

Solar power is in a golden age of technological innovation, what will the impact be on design?

January 5, 2023, *metropolismag.com*, by Ethan Tucker

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## **Job, training, grant & internship opportunities**

**January 24 12pm**

### **(for students) Virtual Event: Pathway to Warner Bros. Discovery**

You’re invited to Warner Bros. Discovery’s Virtual Event: Pathway to WBD. WBD’s University Relations team is hosting this event to provide students with the opportunity to hear from former interns and recruiters on the ins and outs of various teams at WBD, get a glimpse into life as a WBD employee, and learn about their internship program. Bonus: The WBD Recruiters will give attendees exclusive access to their top resume and personal branding tips along with how to become a potential candidate for their internship and early career program. Click below to learn more + register and please be sure to select "Center for Communication" when they ask which organization referred you! [Learn more & register](#).

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through February 3

## NBCUniversal Summer 2023 Internship Program applications

The Early Careers Recruitment Team will be hosting two virtual events:

**Instagram Live on Thursday, January 19 7pm**



**Recruiter Panel on Thursday, January 26 7pm**

To RSVP for the Recruiter Panel, use the QR code on the flyer below; additional information will be sent closer to time.



For some of the best application advice from recruiters and former interns, students can follow @nbcu\_interns on Instagram and stay connected to NBCUniversal on LinkedIn over the coming weeks.

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**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](https://nyfa.org/awards-grants/artist-fellowships).

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### **Woman's Day Editorial Assistant**

Working directly with the editorial team managing [WomansDay.com](https://WomansDay.com), the editorial assistant writes and produces content across the site's key beats, executes SEO-related updates, assists with social media posting and manages various other editorial administrative tasks. Requirements: Previous experience writing lifestyle-related content, either in an internship or in a freelance or full-time position, at a digital publication; A clear, creative, and technically spotless writing style; Knowledge of SEO best practices; Previous experience with a content management system and social scheduling tools and tactics. [Learn more + apply!](#)

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## **Make your views known**

### **Proposed Change to New York State Assembly District Boundaries**

Source: Manhattan Community Board Six email of January 10, 2023, January 2023 Newsletter  
Over the last several months, [CB6] newsletters reported on an attempt to put parts of Manhattan Community District 6 into a majority-Queens New York City Council District. Thankfully, due to the efforts of CB6 and other community stakeholders, we were able to keep this from happening. We are in a similar situation again, but this time, with the New York State Assembly. The New York's Independent Redistricting Commission released its [proposed map for the New York State Assembly](#). In that map, most of our constituents north of East 42nd Street are proposed to be redistricted to a majority-Queens New York State Assembly District. The redistricting proposal is far from final, as it will face a series of public hearings before a final version is submitted next April — including a February 7 hearing at Hunter College's Kaye Playhouse. Additionally, CB6's Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee discussed the proposed redistricting at its meeting last night. At [the January 11] Full Board meeting, CB6 will vote on a resolution opposing the attempt to place parts of our East Side community within a Queens Assembly District.

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Editor's note: If you would like to weigh in on the proposed map, you can comment on the New York Independent Redistricting Commission's website: [nyirc.gov/participate](https://nyirc.gov/participate). You can draw your own maps. See the schedule of public hearings at [nyirc.gov/meetings](https://nyirc.gov/meetings), and sign up for a meeting at [nyirc.gov/register](https://nyirc.gov/register). The Manhattan (New York County) public hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 7, at 4pm, at Hunter College (CUNY).

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**February 7 10am (comment-by date & hearing date)**

## **Public Hearing: The New York City Department of Transportation ("DOT") is proposing an amendment to Section 4-08 of the Traffic Rules to establish loading zone regulations**

The Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) is authorized to issue rules regarding parking and traffic operations in the City pursuant to Section 2903(a) of the New York City Charter. The rules that DOT is seeking to amend are contained within Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York, relating to its "Traffic Rules." Learn more at [rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/loading-zones-regulations](https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/loading-zones-regulations).

The growth of e-commerce deliveries and for-hire vehicle trips throughout the city has changed the way New Yorkers use curbs. Nearly 90% of goods in New York City are delivered by trucks and, with the growth of e-commerce and demand for frequent home deliveries, the amount of goods that move through NYC is estimated to grow by 68% in the next 20 years. As demand for the City's limited curb space continues to grow, trucks, delivery vehicles, cargo bikes, and personal vehicles need safe ways to access the curbs without blocking traffic, including bus routes and bike lanes. These proposed rules would provide dedicated curb space for loading and unloading activities during daytime and evening hours, which would help to reduce double parking as well as other unwanted standing behaviors, creating a safer and more efficient environment for all road users.

**Full text of rule** [rules.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Opportunity-to-Comment-Loading-Zones-FINAL-Certifications.pdf](https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Opportunity-to-Comment-Loading-Zones-FINAL-Certifications.pdf).

### **Ways to join the hearing:**

#### **Join through Internet:**

To join the hearing via your browser, either click on the following URL link or copy and paste it into your browser's address bar.

Join Zoom Meeting using the following information:

[zoom.us/j/95721394822?pwd=M21rZTM2aHRtNy9LcXYvUmtkbWVfZD09](https://zoom.us/j/95721394822?pwd=M21rZTM2aHRtNy9LcXYvUmtkbWVfZD09)

Meeting ID: 957 2139 4822

Password: 649782

Then follow the prompts.

If you have low bandwidth or inconsistent Internet connection, we suggest you use the phone option below for the hearing.

#### **Join via phone only:**

To join the hearing only by phone, use the following information to connect:

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 957 2139 4822

Password: 649782

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**How do I comment on the proposed rules?** Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by: Website. You can submit comments to DOT through the NYC rules Web site at [rules.cityofnewyork.us](https://rules.cityofnewyork.us).

Email. You can email comments to [rules@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:rules@dot.nyc.gov).

Mail. You can mail comments to Charles Ukegbu, Assistant Commissioner of Regional & Strategic Planning, New York City Department of Transportation, 55 Water Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10041.

Fax. You can fax comments to 212-839-7188.

By Speaking at the Hearing. Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by emailing [rules@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:rules@dot.nyc.gov) or calling 212-839-6500 by February 6, 2023 and include your name and affiliation. While there will be an opportunity during the hearing to indicate that you would like to provide comments, we prefer that you sign up in advance. You can speak for up to three minutes.

**Deadline to submit written comments:** Yes, the deadline for written comments is 5pm on February 7, 2023.

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**March 10 (deadline for comments)**

**(Federal rules) Proposed FTC Rule: Non-Compete Clause Rule (NPRM)**

Posted by the Federal Trade Commission. (2800+ comments so far) Learn more and comment at [regulations.gov/document/FTC-2023-0007-0001](https://regulations.gov/document/FTC-2023-0007-0001), where you can download the full proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Sections 5 and 6(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) is proposing the Non-Compete Clause Rule.

The proposed rule would, among other things, provide that it is an unfair method of competition for an employer to enter into or attempt to enter into a non-compete clause with a worker; to maintain with a worker a non-compete clause; or, under certain

circumstances, to represent to a worker that the worker is subject to a non-compete clause. OPEN FOR COMMENTS: Interested parties may file a comment online or on paper by following the instructions in the Request for Comment part of the SUPPLEMENTARY

INFORMATION section. Write “Non-Compete Clause Rulemaking, Matter No. P201200” on your comment, and file your comment online at [regulations.gov](https://regulations.gov), by following the instructions on the web-based form. If you prefer to file your comment on paper, mail your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1CC-5610 (Annex C), Washington, DC 20580. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Lane (202-876-5651), Attorney, Office of Policy Planning.

Write “Non-Compete Clause Rulemaking, Matter No. P201200” on your comment, and file your comment online at [regulations.gov](https://regulations.gov), by following the instructions on the web-based form. If you prefer to file your comment on paper, mail your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1CC-5610 (Annex C), Washington, DC 20580. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Lane (202-876-5651), Attorney, Office of Policy Planning.

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**Related: [What a Ban on Non-compete Agreements Could Mean for American Workers](#)**

January 10, 2023, *newyorker.com*, by Isaac Chotiner

Companies often prevent employees from joining rivals. The Biden Administration wants that to end.

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If you visit, live in or work in Flatiron or NoMad districts

### **Take the Flatiron/NoMad Community survey**

[survey123.arcgis.com/share/e37f66f18840478483273ff8d25584c0](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/e37f66f18840478483273ff8d25584c0).

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**The NYS Office of Cannabis Management** (OCM) issued [proposed regulations](#) for adult-use recreational licenses, and those regulations are now in the public comment period. Comments can be filed directly by emailing [regulations@ocm.ny.gov](mailto:regulations@ocm.ny.gov). Learn more at [cannabis.ny.gov](https://cannabis.ny.gov). You can report incidents at this site.

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## 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](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org).

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**January 24 10pm – 4am (overnight)**

### **The annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) Survey**

This is a point-in-time survey undertaken each winter that helps the City estimate the number of unsheltered New Yorkers living on the street on what's historically one of the coldest nights of the year. Volunteers needed from 10pm – 4am. Visit [nyc.gov/hope](https://nyc.gov/hope) to learn more and to register.

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For parents with a child enrolled in a NYC public school

**January 19 – February 13 (apply to be on an education council)**

### **Apply to be on a Community Education Council (CEC) or citywide education council**

Learn more at [schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/Community-and-citywide-education-councils-cecs/elections-2023-community-and-citywide-education-councils/run](https://schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/Community-and-citywide-education-councils-cecs/elections-2023-community-and-citywide-education-councils/run).

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**March 17 5pm (deadline for applications)**

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## **Apply to Be on the Manhattan Community Board**

Community Boards are the independent and representative voices of their communities—the most grass-roots form of local government. Manhattan’s 12 Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms; 25 members are appointed (or reappointed) each year. Each year, the Manhattan Borough President appoints 300 members to the borough’s 12 Community Boards to serve two-year terms, and applications are now open through. **Apply at** [form.jotform.com/223404628070146](http://form.jotform.com/223404628070146).

The Borough President is especially interested in appointing Manhattanites who have historically been less represented on Community Boards, including youth 16 years or older, public housing residents, and people holding marginalized identities. Borough President Levine is committed to ensuring that Community Boards authentically reflect the diversity of the neighborhoods they represent, lifting up the lived experience and concerns of Manhattanites who have long been disenfranchised.

Community Board members must live, work, or have an otherwise significant interest in the neighborhoods served by the community district, and be a New York City resident. In addition, they look for applicants with histories of community involvement, expertise and skill sets, and attendance at Board meetings. No more than 25 percent of the members of any board may be New York City employees.

Each Board has a budget, a district manager and staff, and has three distinct responsibilities:

- Monitoring the delivery of city services such as sanitation and street maintenance;
- Planning and reviewing land use applications including zoning changes; and
- Making recommendations for each year’s city budget.

Community Boards consider a wide range of issues, including distribution of liquor licenses, consideration of sidewalk café applications, and permits for street fairs and other outdoor events. They may also weigh in issues before the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Board of Standards and Appeals (the city agency dedicated to land-use and zoning regulation), and provide input on proposals from city agencies.

Members are officially appointed by the Manhattan Borough President. Half of the members of these boards are selected unilaterally by the Manhattan Borough President, and half are nominated by the City Council Members whose districts overlap with the Community District.

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## **Penn Station updates**

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January 26 6:30 - 8:30pm

**(hybrid) Bold Visions for a New Penn Station**

(free) Three eminent architects: Vishaan Chakrabarti (PAU), Alexandros Washburn (Grand Penn Community Alliance) and Richard Cameron (Atelier and Co. ReThinkNYC), present their plans for an above-ground Penn Station, with Lorraine B. Diehl, author of *The Late, Great Pennsylvania Station*. Cooper Union requires that everyone entering the building must provide proof of CV19 vaccinations and booster with a government issued photo id at the door. No exceptions made or exemptions accepted. There is no mask mandate. [Register for Zoom meeting](#). Register for in-person attendance [eventbrite.com/e/bold-visions-for-a-new-penn-station-tickets-510900887307](https://eventbrite.com/e/bold-visions-for-a-new-penn-station-tickets-510900887307). For further information contact [rethinkpennstationevent@gmail.com](mailto:rethinkpennstationevent@gmail.com).  
at The Great Hall at Cooper Union  
Foundation Building  
7 East 7th Street

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## Upcoming events

**(meeting has been deferred)**

**[NYC Council Public hearing: Proliferation of Unlicensed Smoke Shops in NYC](#)**

Held jointly with Council Member Gale Brewer's Oversight and investigations Committee and the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection (chaired by Council Member Marjorie Velázquez) and the Committee on Health (chaired by Council Member Lynn Schulman).

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**Bookings are now available for Bryant Park bumper cars on ice!**

Rides will last 10 minutes, and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis within your one-hour booking window. Bumper cars are single ride only: one person per car and no children on laps. Drivers must be age 7 and up, and at least 42 inches tall and under 300 lbs. From \$20. [Book your ride](#).

at Bryant Park

between 40<sup>th</sup> & 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (behind the Library)

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January 18 2pm [Reel to Read Movies: Clue \(1985\)](#)

January 18 6pm [Reel to Read Movies: Clue \(1985\)](#)

January 21 2pm [Reel to Read Movies: Clue \(1985\)](#)

**(in person) New York Public Library Reel to Read Movies**

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(free) The page meets the screen at Reel to Read, a curated series of independent and classic cinema, hand-picked by librarians, local authors, and film experts, include a Recommended Reads list based on the movie. Fully accessible, assistive listening and ASL. Registration required. at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL)

Room 303

455 Fifth Avenue (40<sup>th</sup> Street)

[nypl.org/locations/snfl](http://nypl.org/locations/snfl)

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January 18 6pm

**(virtual) Community Board 5 State Licenses and Permits (SLAP) Committee Meeting**

Nick Athanail, Chair, Joseph Frewer, Vice-Chair. Agenda: The New York State Office of Cannabis Management will give a presentation on Retail Cannabis Licenses in NYC. Register for the meeting at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zOT8nB0SSYKzFf33n0BIVQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zOT8nB0SSYKzFf33n0BIVQ). CB5 meetings are recorded and posted on YouTube

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January 18 7pm

**(in person) Japan Society film classics: *A Fugitive from the Past***

Dir. Tomu Uchida, 1965, 183 min., DCP, b&w, in Japanese with English Subtitles. With Rentaro Mikuni, Sachiko Hidari, Koji Mitsui. Tickets range from \$5 (Japan Society members) - \$15. In 1947, a freak typhoon sinks a passenger ferry running between Hokkaido and mainland Japan, with hundreds of lives lost. During the chaos, three men are witnessed fleeing a burning pawnshop in the Hokkaido port town of Iwanai. The police suspect theft and arson, and when Detective Yumisaka (Junzaburo Ban) discovers the burned remains of a boat and the corpses of two men, he sets about tracking the shadowy third figure. Meanwhile, the mysterious Takichi Inukai (Rentaro Mikuni) takes shelter with a prostitute, Yae (Sachiko Hidari), a brief encounter that will come to define both of their lives. A decade later, long after the trail has gone cold, Yumisaka is called back by his successor, Detective Ajimura (Ken Takakura), as two new bodies are found. (Arrow Films). Learn more, including Covid protocols, and purchase tickets at [boxoffice.japansociety.org/events/86554ca4-2a0e-af2d-1419-092e7e125c2e](https://boxoffice.japansociety.org/events/86554ca4-2a0e-af2d-1419-092e7e125c2e).

at Japan Society

333 East 47th Street (between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)

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January 19 - January 26

**World-Class Squash Tournament of Champions at Grand Central Terminal**

The JPMorgan Tournament of Champions will return to Grand Central Terminal for its 25th year. Learn more and purchase your reserved seat tickets at [tocsquash.com](http://tocsquash.com).

at Grand Central Terminal - Vanderbilt Hall

42<sup>nd</sup> Street enter & Park Avenue

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**January 19 6pm**

**(in-person) 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct (Sector A) Build the Block meeting**

Agenda: updates on what has been going on for the last 3 months, and there will be a time for questions and answers. Anthony Rivera, Neighborhood Coordination Officer, 17th Precinct ([Anthony.Rivera4@nypd.org](mailto:Anthony.Rivera4@nypd.org)).

at St. Vartan Church

630 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (between 34<sup>th</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Street)

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**January 19 7pm (conversation), 7:30pm concert**

**(in person) Music on Park Avenue with Per Tengstrand, *The Romantic Piano: Chopin, Liszt and Schubert***

A recital featuring music of three romantic composers: the lyrical Chopin, the virtuoso Liszt, and the intimate Schubert, performed by Per Tengstrand. Tickets \$30 (\$25 ASF Members). Tickets must be purchased in advance. Learn more and purchase tickets at [scandinaviahouse.org/events/music-park-avenue-per-tengstrand-january-2023](https://scandinaviahouse.org/events/music-park-avenue-per-tengstrand-january-2023). Save the dates for future performances: February 23 Tengstrand & Opus: *The Grieg Concerto*, March 23 *Masterpieces for Cello and Piano*: Per Tengstrand and cellist Robin Park, April 20 Tengstrand & Opus: *The Tchaikovsky Concerto*.  
at Scandinavia House

Victor Borge Hall

58 Park Avenue (between 37<sup>th</sup> & 38<sup>th</sup> Street)

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January 20 7pm

**Japan Society's Monthly Anime—*Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama***

A rarely screened Indo-Japanese anime co-production, *Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama* took nearly a decade to complete. A collaboration between producer Koichi Sasaki, animation legend Ram Mohan, and director Yugo Sako, *Ramayana* adapts the Sanskrit epic into a beautifully realized animated gem, featuring hand-drawn cel animation from Studio Ghibli. Tickets range from \$5 (Japan Society members) to \$15. Learn more, including Covid protocols, and purchase tickets at [boxoffice.japansociety.org/events/2ad505d5-d30c-b487-d4c6-9e436903e113](https://boxoffice.japansociety.org/events/2ad505d5-d30c-b487-d4c6-9e436903e113).

at Japan Society

333 East 47th Street (between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)

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January 22 12pm

**(virtual) The Fantastic Art of Paper Cutting with Danish paper-cutting artist Torben Jarlstrøm Clausen**

Presented by Scandinavia House, a workshop on creating paper-cut beings! Clausen has created a magical paper-cut universe. In this online workshop held via Zoom, Clausen will share his techniques and guide viewers through creating their own paper-cut magic. Participants will also explore the paper-cut artwork of renowned storyteller Hans Christian Andersen, and hear about Clausen's own journey to becoming a paper-cutting artist. The class will be limited to 30 participants to allow for audience interaction. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 ASF Members). Students should supply their own materials to cut alongside Clausen. Skill is beginner-level and above. Materials: Sharp pair of scissors, Five pieces of any color paper sized approximately 4 x 4 inches (approximately the thickness of printer paper), Five pieces of any color paper sized approximately 1 x 2 inches, Additional paper to use as needed. Learn more and purchase tickets at [scandinaviahouse.org/events/fantastic-art-paper-cutting-january-2023](https://scandinaviahouse.org/events/fantastic-art-paper-cutting-january-2023).

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January 24 4 - 5:30pm

**(virtual) *Working-Class Utopias: A History of Cooperative Housing in New York City*, a book talk with author Robert Fogelson**

(free) As World War II ended and Americans turned their attention to problems at home, union leaders and other prominent New Yorkers came to believe that cooperative housing would solve the city's century-old problem of providing decent housing at a reasonable cost for working-class

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families. In *Working-Class Utopias: A History of Cooperative Housing in New York City*, Robert Fogelson, one of the nation's foremost urban historians, tells the story of this ambitious movement from the construction of the Amalgamated Houses after World War I to the building of Co-op City, the world's largest housing cooperative, four decades later. Matthew Lasner, co-editor of *Affordable Housing in New York: The People, Places, and Policies That Transformed a City*, joins in conversation.

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**January 25 (rehearsals begin)**

**(for choir members) Sing with St. George's Choral Society this Spring**

In-person rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7 – 9pm beginning on January 25 in their new rehearsal space: St. Mary's Byzantine Church, 246 East 15th St at 2nd Avenue. [Let them know you are returning](#). To join for the first time, [contact Artistic Director Matthew Lewis](#) to schedule an audition. New singer auditions for voice placement will be held on January 25, February 1, or February 8. Learn more about [membership](#). Spring concert will be NY, NY: New York City Composers Concert on Sunday, April 30 at 3pm at The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, 487 Hudson Street. Program: Copland: Stomp Your Foot, Burleigh: Three Spirituals, Bassi: Two Anthems, Sosa: Tabula 1, Dello Joio: A Jubilant Song, Bernstein: Make Our Garden Grow. St. George's Choral Society was founded February 12, 1817 as the "Society of St. George's Church for the Cultivation of Sacred Music." St. George's Church moved from Lower Manhattan to Stuyvesant Square in 1846, and made headlines throughout the 1800s for its innovative approach to worship. The Choral Society experienced two historic firsts: it was the first Episcopalian parish to allow female choir members, and the first white congregation to hire a black soloist. After membership dropped in the 1980s, the Choral Society was reimagined as a community chorus. [www.stgeorgeschoralsociety.org](http://www.stgeorgeschoralsociety.org).

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**January 26 12pm**

**Mayor Eric Adams's State of the City address**

(invitation only) there will be a pooled broadcast feed, in addition to a live feed from City Hall.

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(reserve early if you want to go)

**February 6 7:30pm**

**(in person) Live performance: *Embrace or Exile: The Color of Fate***

(free) Music by Kenji Bunch and text by George Takei; music by Gabriela Lena Frank. Registration strongly encouraged at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/vmzzdFi>.

Who exactly are "enemy aliens?" And who determines that? Pondering the fragility of liberty, award-winning composer Kenji Bunch's compelling new musical work, *Lost Freedom: A Memory*, is based on actor-author-activist George Takei's unforgettable childhood memoir of his family's forced relocation by U.S. government decree to a World War II-era Japanese American internment center. The acclaimed Gabriela Lena Frank's *Tres Homenajes (Compadrazgo)* celebrates interrelationships and deep camaraderie – the opposite of banishment – in her vibrant triptych inspired by Latin American idioms, cultures, and landscapes. Plus OFFBEAT / ONSTAGE post-concert artist talk and audience Q&A. Co-presented by The Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Copeland House Musical Journeys Across America.

CUNY Graduate Center

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Elebash Recital Hall  
365 Fifth Avenue (between 34<sup>th</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Street)

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## Changes in the neighborhood

### [Long-empty Murray Hill hotel sells for \\$50M](#) (paywall)

January 6, 2023, *crainsnewyork.com*, by C. J. Hughes

130 E. 39th St...A long-vacant hotel in Murray Hill that was once a trendy W has found a buyer...The building, 130 E. 39th St., at Lexington Avenue, sold for \$50 million in a deal that closed Dec. 30 and appeared in public records Thursday. The buyer was shielded by a limited liability company. It was once a trendy W hotel.

[Editor's note: According to ACRIS, the NYC Office of the City Register for property records, Party 1 is 130 East 39 LLC, C/O Jeffrey Zwick & Associates, 266 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11211, and Party 2 is Popular Bank. The prior owner was St. Giles Hotel, LLC, and was the Hotel Tuscany prior to that. The hotel was built in 1927 and has 15 floors, including commercial units. BLOCK AND LOT 1-00894-0071, BIN 1019161]

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### [Jamaican consulate inks 43K sf lease in Murray Hill](#)

January 10, 2023, *therealdeal.com*, by Lois Weiss

Somerset Partners, Meadow Partners sign tenant to 20-year deal at 300 East 42nd Street...Offices for both the Consulate General of Jamaica and the country's permanent mission to the United Nations are moving to Somerset Partners and Meadow Partners' 300 East 42nd Street, where the Jamaican government has signed a 20-year deal for 42,500 square feet. The lease includes the entire third and fourth floors and a portion of the fifth floor at the 18-story, 237,000 square-foot building, which takes up the full Second Avenue blockfront between East 41st and 42nd streets. The asking rent for the space was \$67 a square foot...the deal...will see the Jamaican flag added to the front of the building and provide a more contiguous space for the consulate, which is leaving behind its existing space at 767 Third Avenue...Somerset and Meadow acquired the building in 2019 for \$122.5 million, or about \$533 per square foot, before undertaking a \$20 million capital improvement program which enhanced the façade and created a new entrance and lobby on Second Avenue with a contemporary art collection, among other internal renovations. Last year, the owners signed leases with architecture firm CannonDesign for 17,500 square feet and JC Elite Construction for 5,000 square feet before refinancing the property with a \$110 million loan from Fortress Investment Group.

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### [Legal drama complicates sale of Murray Hill hotel for veterans](#) (paywall)

November 16, 2022, *crainsnewyork.com*, by C. J. Hughes

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The Soldiers', Sailors', Mariners', Coast Guard and Airmen's Club at 281 Lexington Ave. A century-old Manhattan hotel for veterans that closed in the pandemic is nearing a sale but needs to untangle some legal issues first.

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## 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](https://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](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help).

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

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#### 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

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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](http://studentcam.org).

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## **[NYC education department blocks ChatGPT on school devices, networks](#)**

January 3, 2023, *ny.chalkbeat.org*, by Michael Elsen-Rooney

New York City students and teachers can no longer access ChatGPT—the new artificial intelligence-powered chatbot that generates stunningly cogent and lifelike writing—on education department devices or internet networks, agency officials confirmed Tuesday.

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## **March 3 (entry deadline)**

### **Art & poetry contest for NYC students in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades**

The NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection's 37th annual [Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest](#). n the New York City watershed are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for our shared water resources on one of five central themes of the contest:

- Water, a Precious Resource
- NYC Drinking Water
- NYC Wastewater Treatment
- Harbor Water Quality & Healthy Marine Ecosystems
- Water Stewardship and Climate Change

For questions, contact [artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov).

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# **Policing**

## **Weekly crime reports**

### **17th precinct**

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

### **13th Precinct**

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

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## **[U.S. Supreme Court allows New York to continue to restrict guns in 'sensitive places' – for now](#)**

January 11, 2023, *gothamist.com*, by Janon Fisher

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The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday morning that a New York law prohibiting guns from “sensitive places” like Times Square, Madison Square Garden or neighborhood playgrounds can stand while a lawsuit brought by gun owners continues to be litigated.

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## Housing, zoning, planning, preservation & affordability

(virtual) January 25 12 – 1:30pm (info session)

March 31 (pre-application deadline)

### Preservation League’s Preserve New York (PNY) 2023 grant program

Preserve New York (PNY) grants provide funding to eligible nonprofits and municipalities in New York State for projects that identify, document, and preserve New York’s cultural and historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. Learn more about eligibility requirements, types of projects funded, and how to apply at either a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, [January 25, 12 -1:30pm](#), or a drop-in help session for personalized assistance. Register at the links.

Wednesday, [February 8 12 -1pm](#)

Thursday, [February 23 10 -11am](#)

Wednesday, [March 15 12 -1pm](#)

Monday, [March 27 9:30 - 10:30am](#)

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### [Mayor Adams Makes Emergency Mutual Aid Request of New York State in Response to Massive Influx of Asylum Seekers](#)

January 13, 2023, Press release

NYC Received More Than 3,100 Asylum Seekers in Past Week...835 Asylum Seekers Arrived Last Thursday Alone, Largest Single Day Arrival Since Influx of Migrants Began...New York City Mayor Eric Adams today released [a] statement after New York City submitted an emergency mutual aid request to New York State for immediate help this weekend to shelter arriving asylum seekers...“Since last spring, the city has stepped up to welcome approximately 40,000 asylum seekers, providing them with shelter, food, and connections to a host of resources. We have opened 74 emergency shelters and four humanitarian relief centers at breakneck speed, and done this almost entirely on our own...“We are at our breaking point.”... being unable to continue sheltering arriving asylum seekers on our own and have submitted an emergency mutual aid request to the State of New York beginning this weekend. This type of request, reserved only for dire emergencies, asks the state for support to shelter arriving asylum seekers as the city faces an immediate need for additional capacity. Our initial request is for shelter to accommodate 500 asylum seekers, but, as New York City continues to see numbers balloon, this estimate will increase as well.

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## **The Seaport Coalition Wins Lawsuit Against the Landmarks Preservation Commission**

Source: [Historic Districts Council](#) (HDC) email of January 13, 2023

On Thursday, January 12th, the Seaport Coalition won its lawsuit against the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The Coalition took the Commission to court over LPC's inappropriate approval of the Howard Hughes Corporation's proposed development project at 250 Water Street in the South Street Seaport District. HDC filed an amicus brief in support of the Seaport Coalition's lawsuit against LPC, going on record to call out what we saw as the Landmarks Commission's inappropriate process and wrong decision at 250 Water Street. In this case, the LPC ignored its own precedent, considered benefits outside of the agency's purview in its decision making, and appeared to work too closely with the applicant and city officials throughout the process...The Judge further wrote, "If LPC wanted to change its position and determine that a parking lot in a historic district could now be converted into a 324-foot tower, that is LPC's prerogative, however it had a legal duty to acknowledge the departure and explain its reasoning." ... When it was enacted in 1965, the NYC Landmarks Law entrusted a politically independent city agency with the responsibility to preserve historically and architecturally significant buildings and districts that are valuable and important to the City as a whole. While [the HDC] support the LPC in its general administration of the Landmarks Law, [the HDC] believe the agency did not appropriately carry out its mandate. Instead, LPC made a decision that damages the integrity and application of the Landmarks Law and our historic districts.

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## **[Mayor Adams unveils plans to turn NYC offices into 20,000 new apartments](#)**

January 9, 2023, *gothamist.com*, by David Brand

Mayor Eric Adams...released details of a plan to turn empty offices into brand new apartments to help relieve New York City's affordable housing crunch. Adams' office conversion blueprint includes specific proposals to ease zoning restrictions and offer tax breaks to property owners. The plan, which draws on recommendations from a city task force convened in July, could pave the way for up to 20,000 new apartments over the next decade, Adams said...Remote work has drastically reduced the use of office space throughout New York City. The task force's study found that employees come to the office less than half as often as they did before the COVID pandemic, and about 20% of Manhattan offices were available to rent in the second half of 2022—up from 10% in 2019...New housing is sorely needed, especially for low-income New Yorkers who struggle to find apartments as rents, evictions and homelessness rise. Nearly 69,000 people spend each night in a shelter run by the New York City Department of Homeless Services, and the vacancy rate in apartments priced below \$1,500 a month has plummeted below 1%, according to the city's most recent housing survey...Adams' office conversion proposal would target Midtown Manhattan...The plan would also allow for a range of housing types, including supportive housing for people who have experienced homelessness and would require changes to city and state laws around zoning requirements...prior plans to turn empty hotels into sorely needed apartments have stalled.

**Office conversion blueprint:** [nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/022-23/mayor-adams-recommendations-convert-underused-offices-homes](https://nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/022-23/mayor-adams-recommendations-convert-underused-offices-homes)

[The Office Adaptive Reuse Task Force](#) was convened by the Adams administration in July 2022 following Local Law 43, sponsored by New York City Councilmember Justin Brannan. The task force's recommendations include:

- Expanding the universe of office buildings with the most flexible regulations for conversion to residential use to those constructed through 1990
- Expanding flexible conversion regulations to all high-intensity office districts
- Finding opportunities to allow housing, whether through conversions or new construction, in a centrally located, high-density part of Midtown that currently prohibits residential development
- Allowing office buildings to convert to various much-needed types of housing, including supportive housing
- Providing flexibility for offices to convert all existing space into housing, eliminating limitations that incentivize only partial conversions or make conversion projects infeasible
- Exploring and pursuing a tax incentive program to support the production of affordable and mixed-income housing through office conversions
- Creating a property tax abatement program to incentivize retrofitting office space for child care centers

### **Related: DCP Releases Office Adaptive Reuse Report**

Source: Grand Central Partnership email of January 12, 2023

This week, the Department of City Planning released findings from the Office Adaptive Reuse Task Force, which was created to explore opportunities to convert outdated office space to other potential uses, especially housing. The Task Force called for 11 legal and regulatory reforms that would increase opportunities for productive conversions and help ensure NYC's central business districts remain vibrant, adaptable, and successful over the long term.

### **[New York City Office Adaptive Reuse Study](#)**

January 2023, Office Adaptive Reuse Task Force, New York City Department of City Planning

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Preservation of affordable rental apartment stock in NYC vs. owner rights

### **[Challenges for Rental Conversions in NY and NJ](#)**

January 13, 2023, *cooperatornews.com*, by A.J. Sidransky

Affordable Housing vs. the Overheated Market...Despite the acute recent rise in interest rates, the tristate condominium and co-op market continues to show strength; a decline doesn't seem to be imminent...For many seeking home ownership in a more urban environment, condominium and co-op units remain the model of choice...In New York State, the conversion of existing rental apartments to co-op or condo ownership came under direct threat with the passage of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act in June of 2019, by which the state legislature turned back the clock on rules governing such conversions to something resembling the landscape of the early 1980s. Changes included increasing the required percentage of bona fide purchases by occupants from 15% to 51%, which was the requirement under the former law...Under the 2019 law, the sponsor has to sell 50% of the offered units to current tenants - which is impossible...this requirement has had a terrible effect on conversions, and has seriously affected the value of assets appropriate for conversion...The changes to the law, while modest, start with smaller buildings with five units or less. An owner can convert based on the old 15% rule instead of the new 51%

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requirement. “The wrinkle in the new law...is that the sponsor must live in the building...What if the sponsor is an entity with many partners behind the curtain...This legislation was passed so that [affordable units] couldn't be removed from the market just to sell buildings. We haven't seen much repercussion from the change though. There were relatively few affordable units as opposed to market units to begin with...For now, it's clear that there is a growing conflict between the interests of those who rent, and those who desire to own...between the rights of those who cannot afford to enter the overheated owned housing market, and the market's own tendency to dictate the highest and best use of existing housing stock.

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(opinion) [\*\*New York's answer to the eviction crisis triggered by COVID-19 needs a successor\*\*](#)

January 14, 2023, *cityandstateny.com*, by Zac Hale, staff attorney at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which is set to close its application process Jan. 20, helped renters and landlords alike...This program has been a much-needed lifeline to renters, assisting with the rental debt of over 22,000 tenants...With housing attorneys overwhelmed by the rate and number of eviction cases being pushed through court, and New York City's homeless shelters under historic strain, the sunsetting of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program [ERAP] will create a gap in tenant protections...While these measures were controversial, it is crucial for New York's policymakers and housing advocates to remember that they worked and prevented even greater numbers of New Yorkers becoming homeless or housing insecure...New York provided even stronger protections in the Tenant Safe Harbor Act of 2020, which delayed or prevented evictions for millions of tenants who suffered coronavirus-related hardships...The Emergency Rental Assistance Program kept renters in their homes, helped landlords make their mortgage payments and saved the scarce resources of our court system...Whether New York extends the current program or creates another system that protects and assists renters, the closure of the program's application signals the opening of new opportunities for bold action.

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(opinion) [\*\*2023 Could Be Year of Rent-Stabilized Housing Collapse; Here's How We Avoid That\*\*](#)

January 6, 2023, *gothamgazette.com*, by Jay Martin, Executive Director of CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Program, an association of 4,000 responsible owners and managers of over 400,000 rent-stabilized rental property across all five boroughs in New York City) [chipnyc.org](http://chipnyc.org) Increasingly I am hearing from owners of rent-stabilized apartment buildings that they will not be able to make their mortgage payments this month or soon thereafter. A confluence of "once in a lifetime" events is pushing this much needed housing toward the brink of insolvency...The COVID-19 emergency was one of those unexpected costs...at an almost unimaginable scale. A massive number of renters lost income and simply could not pay their rent...during COVID-19 many elderly or long-term tenants left their apartments or passed away. If the tenant lived in the apartment for more than 20 years, it likely needs very substantial renovations and upgrades to comply with a host of city and state requirements that didn't exist when they moved into the apartment. This work is not optional. It is mandated by government building codes...The rents on these apartments already do

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not cover their operating costs, let alone the renovation cost. Because of this, the only logical option for an owner is to leave the apartment vacant. That is bad housing policy...The final straw that is forcing these buildings into insolvency is inflation and interest rates...How big is this problem? Hundreds of buildings housing many thousands of renters don't have the cash flow to pay their mortgages or maintenance. The banks and lenders for these buildings are scrambling to find anyone who will take them over...My organization, CHIP, is proposing a small and simple change that would help many rent-stabilized buildings be preserved and bring thousands of affordable apartments back online, helping to alleviate the city's severe housing shortage. Under our proposal, building owners would fully renovate vacant apartments coming off of long-term occupancy, setting an affordable new rent, but leaving the apartment in stabilization...the new apartments would have rents low enough for voucher holders to access them.

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## **[Meet The Spy Tech Companies Helping Landlords Evict People](#)**

January 4, 2023, *vice.com*, by Nick Keppler

The growing 'proptech' industry is now explicitly marketing surveillance tech as a way to evict tenants and raise rent...tech companies are increasingly selling these solutions to landlords for a more nefarious purpose: spying on tenants in order to evict them or raise their rent...Teman's sales pitch proposes a solution to a frustration for many New York City landlords, who have tenants living in older apartments that are protected by a myriad of rent control and stabilization laws. The company's email suggests a workaround: "3 Simple Steps to Re-Regulate a Unit." First, use one of Teman's automated products to catch a tenant breaking a law or violating their lease, such as by having unapproved subletters or loud parties. Then, "vacate" them and merge their former apartment with one next door or above or below, creating a "new" unit that's not eligible for rent protections...Any camera system can document possibly eviction-worthy behavior, but McElroy identified two companies, Teman and Reliant Safety, that use the biometrics of tenants with the explicit goal of facilitating evictions...These companies are part of an expanding industry known as "proptech," encompassing all the technology used for acquiring and managing real estate...In his appeals to landlords, Teman has broadened the scope of tenants targetable through his products. In a 2018 LinkedIn post, the possibly eviction-worthy activities detected included "subletting," "living elsewhere most of the year," "hav[ing] too many occupants" and "hosting parties or businesses."... He also claims facial recognition can prevent inheritance claims, in which some rent protections are passed to family members who lived with a tenant...Teman...claimed the tools his company sells are built to promote safety... While Reliant [Reliant Safety, owned by the Omni Organization, a private developer founded in 2004 that "acquires, rehabilitates, builds and manages quality affordable housing"] claims its products are rooting out illegal and dangerous activity, the use of surveillance and biometrics to further extend policing into minority communities are a major cause for concern to privacy advocates...Reliant's operations are part of a wave of high-tech security systems in low-income housing in New York...In 2021, New York City passed the Tenant Data Privacy Act, which requires landlords who use biometric access systems to provide data retention and privacy policies, though it doesn't require tenant consent. The law will go into effect at the start of 2023.

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**(opinion) [Millions of Americans are enrolled in Medicaid who shouldn't be – and it's costing taxpayers billions](#)**

January 6, 2023, *thehill.com*, by Justin Haskins

The recent rise in Medicaid enrollment is one of the most remarkable expansions of a welfare program in U.S. history...90.9 million Americans are now enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). That's an increase of more than 20 million compared to February 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic emerged...The rise in Medicaid enrollment has its roots in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in March 2020. Congress created FFCRA as a direct reaction to a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and coronavirus-related economic lockdowns imposed by state and local governments that occurred early in 2020. Under the FFCRA, states were provided with additional federal funds meant to help combat the effects of the pandemic. But there were important strings attached. To receive the additional funds, states had to agree to stop disenrolling people from their Medicaid rolls, even if enrollees would otherwise no longer qualify for coverage, including because an enrollee has substantially increased his or her income. Congress's purpose for this provision was to keep states from kicking people off Medicaid rolls during the pandemic. But when does the pandemic officially end? Under the FFCRA, the Medicaid rule change remains in effect until the executive branch officially stops declaring public health emergencies...the Biden administration has continued to redeclare a national public health emergency every 90 days since coming into office, keeping Medicaid rolls bloated with Americans who would otherwise be ineligible to enroll in the costly program...A report published in August 2022 by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, an office within the Department of Health and Human Services, estimates that as many as 15 million people could leave Medicaid and CHIP when the public health emergency finally ends...8.2 million of the 15 million total will no longer be considered eligible for the program, and about 5 million are expected to quickly gain coverage through an existing employer.

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## Sustainability & resilience

**[Carbon Capture Becomes Reality in NYC Apartment Buildings](#)**

January 12, 2023, *commercialobserver.com*, by Chava Gourarie

Glenwood Management, has installed the first small-scale carbon capture system designed for a commercial building, and it's been sucking carbon out of the air ever since...The system, devised by startup CarbonQuest, sucks carbon dioxide emitted by the building's natural gas usage into its equipment, then cools and liquifies it, storing the liquid form in tankers that can then be sold by the ton...CarbonQuest scaled down the equipment so that it can fit into a basement or parking lot...Every few months, a tanker shows up at the building and transfers the liquified CO2 to several buyers...Once that conversion takes place, it's permanently sequestered...Local Law 97...which requires most building owners to cap carbon emissions at a designated benchmark by 2025 or face

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finer – makes the business case for carbon capture even stronger...the equipment can capture up to 100 percent of a building's natural gas emissions, which generally make up about 50 percent of a building's total pollution, Asparro said...Glenwood Management is installing CarbonQuest systems in five more buildings: ...The Paramount Tower (240 East 39th Street)...Asparro plans to continue to scale down CarbonQuest's equipment, as well as make the already modular design more flexible. He wants to create equipment that can be installed outdoors on rooftops or setbacks, or indoors in unused areas that are less valuable than parking spaces.

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## Elections, redistricting, voting & appointments

**State Senator Liz Krueger's now represents new State Senate District 28**, see the map at [nysenate.gov/district/28](https://nysenate.gov/district/28). She is losing parts of Murray Hill and Kips Bay and representing more of Midtown, the Garment District, and Times Square, as well as adding Roosevelt Island and parts of Chelsea to our district, while continuing to represent East Midtown, Turtle Bay, Lenox Hill, Yorkville, and the Upper East Side.

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**To the south is new State Senator Kristen Gonzalez's district 59**, see the map at [nysenate.gov/district/59](https://nysenate.gov/district/59). She represents parts of Manhattan, Kings and Queens.

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## Budget, finances & taxes

Important, because Federal funds flow down to State and City.

FEDERAL

### [Yellen warns of U.S. default risk by early June, urges debt limit hike](#)

January 13, 2023, *reuters.com*, by Kanishka Singh and David Lawder

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday the United States will likely hit the \$31.4 trillion statutory debt limit on Jan. 19, forcing the Treasury to launch extraordinary cash management measures that can likely prevent default until early June. "Once the limit is reached, Treasury will need to start taking certain extraordinary measures to prevent the United States from defaulting on its obligations"... Republicans now in control of the House have threatened to use the debt ceiling as leverage to demand spending cuts from Democrats and the Biden administration.

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CITY

### [Mayor Adams Releases Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024](#)

January 12, 2023, Press release

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Video available at [youtu.be/3zh0rR\\_x\\_sY](https://youtu.be/3zh0rR_x_sY).

Transcript

New York City Mayor Eric Adams today released New York City's balanced \$102.7 billion Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)... "As our city continues its recovery, our administration continues to make investments in our core priorities – including public safety, affordable housing, and clean streets – while exercising strong fiscal management," said Mayor Adams. "By asking agencies to self-fund new needs with preexisting resources, the Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Budget continues our strong track record of making prudent use of taxpayer dollars... The Preliminary Budget was crafted in response to slowing economic growth, which impacts revenue, and fiscal uncertainties... The Preliminary Budget maintains a record level \$8.3 billion in reserves... The administration is also committed to expediting the creation of affordable housing to address the severe housing shortage throughout the city. In December, Mayor Adams announced "[Get Stuff Built](#)," which aims to build 500,000 new homes over the next decade. To meet these goals, the administration is allocating an additional \$2.8 million in new funding in FY24 to streamline the building and land use process across several city agencies... Mayor Adams provided additional support to help provide a glidepath for schools adjusting to lower enrollment, with \$160 million allocated for FY23, and \$80 million for FY24... Mayor Adams has made clear that an equitable recovery depends on making the city safer, cleaner, and more sustainable... FY24 investments include: DOB [Department of Buildings] will develop, adopt, standardize, and implement a citywide building code (\$2.6 million)... FY24 capital investments include: Accelerating projects to meet carbon reduction targets set forward in Local Law 97 (\$259 million); Funding high-priority street reconstruction projects related to Vision Zero, the Streets Plan, and more (\$228 million)...

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Toward the end of January, the Governor will release her **Executive Budget proposal**, and following that the Legislature will announce the schedule for **joint budget hearings**, convened by State Senator Liz Krueger, as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, with Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Those hearings will run through February. In March, the Senate, Assembly, and Governor's office negotiate what will be in the final budget, which must be passed by **April 1st**. Then between April 1st and the last day of session, which is scheduled for June 8th this year, we work on all the remaining bills that do not have direct budgetary implications.

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### **[Governor Hochul announces mobile sports wagering generated \\$909 million for New York State in first year of operation](#)**

January 13, 2023, Press release, Governor's office

Tax Revenue Funds Education, Youth Sports Programming and Problem Gambling Prevention Treatment and Recovery Services... More Than \$16 Billion Wagered on Sports in New York State in First Year of Operation... Upon the one-year anniversary of mobile sports wagering in New York State, Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the State has collected more than \$709.2 million in taxes on such bets, a figure that leads the nation. An additional \$200 million in licensing fees has also

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been collected, generating a total of more than \$909 million in revenue, most of it to be used for education.

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## **New York By The Numbers: Monthly Economic and Fiscal Outlook**

January 10, 2023, Press release, NYC Comptroller Brad Landers' office, [comptroller.nyc.gov](https://www.comptroller.nyc.gov)

### **NYC Labor Markets**

- Seasonally adjusted New York City private employment increased by roughly 6,300 in November to 3.995 million, to about 97.2% of the pre-pandemic peak.
- New York City employment in Health care and Social Assistance increased by almost 8,000 jobs in November, the largest increase of any sector, followed by Professional Business Services, Financial Activities, and Accommodation and Food Services.
- Despite these increases, employment in food and hospitality remains about 50,000 (13.1%) below the pre-pandemic highs, and employment in arts, entertainment, and recreation remains about 13,500 (14%) below.
- New York City's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stayed at 5.8% from October to November.
- Unemployment rates for Black New Yorkers (11.7%) remain above the citywide rate.

### **Housing & Real Estate**

- The New York City shelter system recorded a new all-time high of 67,880 total individuals in shelter as of January 8, 2023. Between December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022 there was a net increase of 21,338 individuals in shelter
- The surge in shelter population has been attributed to the arrival of tens of thousands of asylum seekers in the second half of 2022. Over 38,000 asylum seekers have arrived in NYC, and 26,100 remain in the Department of Homeless Services' shelter system or the four Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRCs).
- New York City closed 4Q-2022 with approximately 123,600,000 square feet of available office space for rent. The total amount of available office space for rent has been largely flat since 2Q-2021 (Chart 4).

### **Travel and Tourism**

- Airport passenger volume at New York City area airports has surpassed pre-pandemic levels for the first time in November, with travelers up 2% compared to November 2019 (Chart 5).
- The City's air travel again outpaced the nation: air travel in the U.S. was down 6% from pre-pandemic levels in November.
- Metro area transportation weekday bridge and tunnel traffic continues on par with pre-pandemic levels, but public transit remains down by about a third with subways, buses, and trains (LIRR and Metro-North) all clustering around 62% to 64% of pre-pandemic usage (Chart 7).
- Weekend service on the subway has hit higher utilization than average weekday use, with 67% of pre-pandemic levels over December (adjusted for holiday weekends). LIRR and Metro-North weekend utilization levels are much higher than weekday usage, with the Metro-North hitting 101% of pre-pandemic usage.
- Broadway gross revenues continued to inch back towards pre-pandemic levels, with December 2022 averaging 95% of December 2019's levels (Chart 8).

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

FEDERAL

## [Remarks by President Biden on Border Security and Enforcement](#)

January 5, 2023, Press release

Now, these actions alone that I'm going to announce today aren't going to fix our entire immigration system, but they can help us a good deal in better managing what is a difficult challenge...On my first day in office...I sent Congress a comprehensive piece of legislation that would completely overhaul what has been a broken immigration system for a long time: cracking down on illegal immigration; strengthening legal immigration; and protecting DREAMers, those with temporary protected status, and farmworkers, who all are part of the fabric of our nation. But congressional Republicans have refused to consider my comprehensive plan. And they rejected my recent request for an additional \$3.5 billion to secure the border and funds for...asylum officers and personnel – and 100 new immigration judges so people don't have to wait years to get their claims adjudicated, which they have a right to make a claim legally...And the failure to pass and fund this comprehensive plan has increased the challenges that we're seeing at our southwest border...Now, there are a number of ways to immigrate to America legally under our existing laws. For example, an American citizen – an American citizen can sponsor an immediate family member from another country. An American company can sponsor an employee from another country. There are visas for students to study in our colleges and other special categories...That includes another legal way for someone to come to America by seeking asylum because they're fleeing persecution, like a lot of our ancestors did as well...Over the past several years, thousands of people have been fleeing from Central and South America and the Caribbean countries ruled by oppressive dictators – including Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela – and escaping gang violence, which has the same impact, in Haiti. Currently, these four countries account for most of the people traveling into Mexico to start a new life by getting at the – to the American border and trying to cross...the previous administration used a rule called Title 42 to deal with – to deal with the pandemic, a rapidly – to rapidly expel people who crossed the border. It was a – designed to deal with the pandemic, but it's used as a means to expel people at the border...under the United States Supreme Court decision, a case on Title 42 later this year, my administration will – and they will make a decision, finally, what to do about Title 42. In the meantime, my administration will continue to use that authority as the Supreme Court has required...And until Congress passes the funds – a comprehensive immigration plan to fix the system completely – my administration is going to work to make things better at the border using the tools that we have available to us now...we responded by using and ensuring that there are two safe and lawful ways for someone leaving the country to come to America...First, if they're seeking asylum, they can use an app on their cell phone called CBP One...To schedule an appointment at a port of entry and make their asylum claim there without crossing the border unlawfully and have a decision determined by an asylum officer, do they qualify...Second, in October, we worked with the Mexican government to launch a new parole program...The way this parole program works: One must have a lawful sponsor here in the United States who agrees to sponsor you to get here. Then, that person has to...undergo rigorous background checks and apply from outside the United States and not cross the border illegally in the meantime. If they apply and their application is approved, they can use...the CBP One app, to present at a port of entry and be

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able to work in the United States legally for two years. That's the process. But if their application is denied or if they attempt to cross into the United States unlawfully, they will be returned back to Mexico and will not be eligible for this program after that...This new process is orderly, it's safe, and it's humane. And it works...my administration is going to expand the parole program for people not only from Venezuela but from Cuba, Nicaragua, and Haiti...My message is this: If you're trying to leave Cuba, Nicaragua, or Haiti...Stay where you are and apply legally from there...if you don't apply through the legal process, you will not be eligible for this new parole program....Let me reiterate: You need a lawful sponsor in the United States of America, number one. And you need to undergo a rigorous background check, number two. If your application is approved and you show up at – at a U.S. airport or when and where directed – you have access. But if your application is denied or you attempt to cross into the United States unlawfully, you will not be allowed to enter...[Vice] President Harris led this effort...to make things better in the countries from which they are leaving. And thanks to her leadership, she's been able to generate more than \$3.2 billion from the private sector to create jobs and opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to help people stay in their own countries – home countries where it'll be safer and they have some opportunities...We've also set up joint patrols and law enforcement with Mexico and Guatemala that share real-time information on locations that smugglers are using to convince migrant groups to cross illegally...We embedded our Border Patrol officers with Mexican patrols to detect and – and raid human smuggling operations...That's not just human smuggling at the border. We're focused on cracking down on drug smuggling...I know that migration is putting a real strain on the borders and on border communities...We're going to get these communities more support...my prediction is...Title 42 is going to go away before the end of the year, in terms of the Supreme Court...And then we're going to have to use Title 9 – Title 8.

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STATE

**Governor Hochul's State of the State address**, January 10, 2022

[Press release, with text of entire address](#). Some highlights.

**"Achieving the New York Dream" ... Initiatives to Create a More Affordable, More Livable and Safer New York**...record investments we are making in education, housing and mental health, all go toward stabilizing communities...When it comes to keeping people safe and protecting their well-being, **fixing New York's mental health care system is essential**...we will be investing more than \$1 billion dollars and making critical policy changes to finally and fully meet the mental health needs of our state...We'll also invest in services that allow patients to begin re-integrating in a way that is safe for them and for the community...we must improve the quality of life for New Yorkers. But you can't really talk about quality of life without talking about cost of living...when there's not sufficient housing for people at all income levels...Over the last ten years, our state has created 1.2 million jobs – but only 400,000 new homes. Many forces led to this state of affairs. But front and center are the local land use policies that are the most restrictive in the nation...I'm proud to introduce the **New York Housing Compact**, a groundbreaking strategy to catalyze the housing development we need for our communities to thrive. For our economy to grow. And our state to prosper. The Compact pulls together a broad menu of policy changes that will collectively achieve the ambitious goal of 800,000 new homes over the next decade...Every single locality across the state will have a target for building new homes. Upstate, the target is for the current housing stock to grow by 1% every three years. Downstate, 3% every three years...localities will get help from the State to accomplish this shared objective. We will offer substantial new funding for infrastructure like schools, roads, and sewers needed to support growing communities...The Housing Compact is also laser-focused

on transit-oriented development. We all know that the MTA is the lifeblood of the New York City metro region, and we will continue to invest in and ensure its long-term fiscal health...as part of the Compact, any municipality with a train station will rezone the area within a half-mile of the station, to allow for the creation of new housing... within the next three years...we can't meet the demand for housing without an incentive program like 421a in New York City...I'm proposing an ambitious series of policies to insulate our most vulnerable households from exorbitant energy bills, and to clear the path forward for a more sustainable future. We're calling it "**The EmPower Plus**" program, and it will help low-income families retrofit their homes by adding insulation, upgrading appliances, and switching from fossil fuels to clean electric heating systems...I'm calling for all new construction to be zero-emission, starting in 2025 for small buildings and 2028 for large buildings. We are taking these actions because climate change remains the greatest threat to our planet, and to our children and grandchildren...**Cap-and-Invest program to cap greenhouse emissions**, invest in the clean energy economy, and prioritize the health and economic well-being of our families...\$7 billion over four years for affordable child care in last year's budget...proposing a plan to peg the minimum wage to inflation.

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Source: State Senator Liz Krueger's email of January 6, 2023

## **Governor Hochul Signed and Vetoed Key Bills Signed**

- S.8591, which carried by Sen. Krueger, will address issues with the Medical Indemnity Fund, which exists to provide a funding source for future health care costs for infants who sustained birth-related neurological injuries, in order to reduce medical malpractice premium costs.
  - S.6291, carried by Sen. Hoylman, prohibits the manufacture and sale of common apparel to which PFAS substances have been intentionally added. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances are a class of chemicals known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment and in the human body. PFAS chemicals have been linked to a variety of adverse health effects, including tumors and reproductive, developmental, liver, kidney, and immunological effects.
  - S.5027C, carried by Sen. Kavanagh, creates an Extended Producer Responsibility program to recycle carpets. New York State generates about 515 million pounds of carpet waste annually, less than 1% of which is recycled.
  - S.7867, carried by Sen. Biaggi, will establish a statewide electronic tracking system for rape kits. Currently 33 states and Washington DC have either implemented or are in the process of implementing sexual assault kit tracking systems. These tracking systems give survivors agency and allow them to access information about the status of their rape kit, when and if, they are ready.
  - S.8922, the Warehouse Worker Protection Act, carried by Sen. Ramos, will support warehouse workers who currently have no protections from inhumane work quotas. It puts safeguards on the algorithms which are monitoring, punishing and pushing workers to burn out or get injured. The new law prevents the algorithm from placing workloads on employees that could injure the worker.
  - S.6809A, carried by Sen. Reichlin-Melnick, restores many of the State Comptroller's oversight powers over state contracts. The Comptroller will once again have the authority to review major state contracts by SUNY, CUNY, and the Office of General Services before they
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are signed. Oversight by the Comptroller is crucial for ensuring the integrity of state contracts and saving taxpayer dollars.

## Vetoed

- S.9387, carried by Sen. Krueger with Assm. Gottfried, would prohibit the future establishment or increased capacity of for-profit hospices.
- S.7453, carried by Sen. Krueger, would have created an Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate program, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and reduce noise pollution by promoting the adoption of electric landscaping equipment.
- S.7337, carried by Sen. Comrie, would have restored powers to the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) that were significantly curtailed by former Governor Cuomo in the 2019 budget. The PACB has oversight of large economic development projects, including, for example, the Penn Station area redevelopment.

## Still Awaiting Action

S.8815, carried by Sen. Krueger, would close a loophole in New York's False Claims Act that had allowed wealthy individuals and large corporations to avoid penalties for knowingly not filing necessary tax returns in order to avoid their tax obligations.

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## Advocating for Asylum Seekers Work Permits

On December 13, [Sen. Brad Hoylman] helped lead [a letter](#) with over two dozen of his colleagues calling on U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas to facilitate expedited work permits for asylum-seekers. Since May, we have all been responding to the humanitarian crisis at our Southern border as a result of the busing of asylum seekers all over the country, with more than 30,000 individuals arriving in New York.

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STATE

### [NY Senate bill would bar Jan. 6 insurrectionists from holding office in the state: Exclusive](#)

January 5, 2023, *nydailynews.com*, by Denis Slattery

Participants charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol would be barred from holding office in New York under a new bill being introduced by Sen. Brad Hoylman. Unveiled on the second anniversary of the deadly siege, the Manhattan Democrat's measure would block insurrectionists from serving as a member of the state legislature, an executive officer, or as a judge in the Empire State...The Restrict Insurrectionists from Office Taking, or RIOT, Act would amend the New York's public officers law and prohibit anyone convicted of rebellion or insurrection against the U.S. of holding civil office in the state.

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CITY

### [Adams Consolidates City's Civic Engagement Efforts Under New Office](#)



January 04, 2023, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

Mayor Eric Adams announced last month the creation of a new office consolidating the city's various civic engagement bodies, as part of his ongoing effort to streamline the functions of city government and, he said, to more actively engage the public in civic life...The mayor's new Office of Engagement, led by newly-appointed Chief Engagement Officer Betsy MacLean, now oversees various city entities that interact with New Yorkers to encourage their participation in government and politics: the mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU) and Public Engagement Unit (PEU); NYC Service, the city's volunteer service corps; and the charter-mandated Civic Engagement Commission (CEC). The CEC, which was created through a 2018 charter revision commission, also has purview over DemocracyNYC, the office created by Mayor Bill de Blasio that same year to improve voter participation and electoral access in the city and now falls under MacLean's umbrella.

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## Stories we are following

### [Saks Fifth Avenue Wants to Add a Casino Atop Its Flagship Store](#)

January 13, 2023, *nytimes.com*, by Stefanos Chen

Hudson's Bay Company, the owner of the department store, unveiled plans for a casino in Midtown Manhattan, joining the race for one of three full-fledged gambling licenses in the city...The owner of the department store says its proposed casino would have a separate lobby and cater to an upscale clientele...Compared to many of the other casino bids, which include sprawling development projects, the Saks proposal is relatively modest — which could ultimately work in its favor. The redesign, which would not involve changing the size of the building, could be completed in fewer than 12 months, Ms. Danuser said, while more complicated proposals could take years to get underway...Opposition is likely. Community Board 5, which represents the area that includes the Saks building, is against the development of a casino because of fears that it could hurt local businesses, said Layla Law-Gisiko, chair of the board's Land Use, Housing & Zoning Committee...The building is also located across the street from Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the landmark heart of the Roman Catholic Church in New York...The Manhattan field of bidders is particularly crowded. SL Green, a major commercial developer, is partnering with Caesars Entertainment to convert an office skyscraper at 1515 Broadway in Times Square, near the New Year's Eve ball drop, into a casino and entertainment complex. Related Companies will work with Wynn Resorts to develop the sprawling western half of Hudson Yards into a convention and casino district with a school and new housing. And the Soloviev Group has their eyes on a 6.7-acre site near the United Nations Headquarters that could host a large mixed-use complex with a Ferris wheel and a new museum.

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### [Soloviev Group Envisions an Entertainment District by the UN — With Gambling](#)

January 4, 2023, *commercialobserver.com*, by Mark Hallum

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New York's great downstate casino race has some of real estate's highest rollers competing for one of three licenses set to be given to downstate operators by the state legislature. Soloviev Group chairman Stefan Soloviev and CEO Michael Hershman are playing for these big stakes, with a 6.7 acres south of the United Nations purchased by Soloviev's late father, Sheldon Solow, from Consolidated Edison in 2000 for \$600 million that they hope will be the big winner. It will include a park with sports fields, a hotel, a performance space and at its centerpiece will be a Ferris wheel. The gaming floor will be underground, and if they don't get the permit they will simply revert to their original plan for a 1.2 million-square-foot office building, according to the developers...The New York State Gaming Commission is putting together the parameters for a request for applications, which is expected to be released Jan. 6.

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**Biden is again criticizing Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act** – that supporters call foundational to a free and open Internet, and detractors say leads to more disinformation and hate speech online – this time in a Wednesday Wall Street Journal opinion piece he used to invite Democrats and Republicans to take on Big Tech in a bipartisan way. The controversial provision protects companies from being sued over content posted by third parties on their platforms.

Source: The Hill's Morning Report email of January 13, 2023, *thehill.com*

(opinion) [Republicans and Democrats, Unite Against Big Tech Abuses](#) (paywall)

January 11, 2023, *wsj.com*, by Joe Biden, President of the United States

Congress can find common ground on the protection of privacy, competition and American children.

Silicon Valley's view

(opinion) [Twenty-Six Words Created the Internet. What Will It Take to Save It?](#)

February 9, 2021, *propublica.org*, by Stephen Engelberg

An interview with Jeff Kosseff, who wrote the book on Section 230, the law that gave us the internet we have today.

Way back [in 1996] when AOL was a big tech company and people reached the World Wide Web via dial-up modems, Congress added a provision to federal law that has had a profound effect on every aspect of our democracy and public life. It's called [Section 230 of the Communication Decency Act](#), and it ruled that internet platforms, or message boards as they then were largely called, are not legally liable for false or defamatory information posted by users...The protection from legal liability proved essential to the explosive growth of the internet platforms, allowing them to remove posts that contained hate speech and other graphic material that might drive away users or advertisers. But at the same time, they did not have to read, research and "moderate," in their terminology, every vituperative, spite-laced statement put on their sites by users...I think it's possible to reform Section 230. But there are a few barriers. First, we haven't agreed on what the problem is. There are very different conceptions of what is wrong...the big problem with that is that we still have the First Amendment...Section 230 has put a lot of power in the hands of a few corporate leaders....You have one person in the private sector who's not elected by anyone who can effectively decide whether someone can speak...The good part about it, if you would call it that, is that it is impossible to imagine how the government would be able to block a lot of this harmful speech. Because the private sector is not bound by the First Amendment, companies actually do have more leeway to act in the public interest...One of the issues becomes who determines whether it's

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misinformation...There's no easy way to deal with it. People keep saying: "Break up Facebook and Instagram." And I think, sure, you can do that, but that's not really what's driving a lot of this. It's the fact that people have migrated to very few platforms...You can understand that this gets complicated in a democracy in which publicly held companies might make decisions that maximize their profits but are not in the public interest...What about the future? There will be pressure from both sides of the aisle to "fix" Section 230. What do you think will happen? I would have a better idea if there was some agreement on what problem we want to fix. Both sides are to a certain extent under the illusion if you got rid of Section 230, that would magically fix all of their problems...The Supreme Court has clearly stated that lies in and of themselves are protected by the First Amendment...A lot of the problems that we're facing are the lies that probably are going to be protected by the First Amendment. A lot of it is half-truths or really bad interpretations of information. That's not something that changing Section 230 is going to fix, because you still have those protections under the First Amendment.

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### **[Yeshiva University's fight against LGBTQ club draws state funding questions](#)**

January 12, 2023, *gaycitynews.com*, by Matt Tracy

Three New York State lawmakers are demanding answers from Yeshiva University (YU) after the school purported to be an "independent" and "non-sectarian" not-for-profit institution for funding purposes, but later claimed to be a "religious corporation" when it sought to ban an LGBTQ campus club. The school hauled in hundreds of millions of state dollars as part of the funding agreements, the lawmakers said...The letter from state lawmakers, dated January 11, was signed by out gay State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal of Manhattan's District 27 as well as State Senators Liz Krueger of Manhattan's District 28 and Toby Ann Stavisky of Queens' District 16.

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### **[New York City Releases 2021 Overdose Data Showing Unprecedented Overdose Levels](#)**

January 12, 2023, Press release, NYC Department of Health

Overdose rates show an increase in racial, economic, age, and neighborhood-level inequities in overdose deaths...The Health Department today released new provisional data on drug overdose deaths in New York City. Two thousand six hundred and sixty-eight individuals died of a drug overdose in New York City in 2021, an increase of 78 percent since 2019 and 27 percent since 2020, with evident disparities by age, race, poverty level, and neighborhood of residence. Fentanyl—an opioid 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine—was detected in 80% of drug overdose deaths in New York City in 2021 and was the most common substance involved in overdose deaths for the fifth year in a row. "These deaths are...absolutely preventable," said Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan. "As a city we must use every evidence-based tool at our disposal to reach people with services and – most of all – support and compassion. As a society, stigma, shame and fear have worsened the situation and delayed the deployment of proven solutions...The Administration is currently working on a response plan to the overdose crisis, which will build off our existing work. In the first nine months of 2022, the city has:

- Distributed 159,951 naloxone kits;
  - Led 71 trainings in overdose reversal;
  - Distributed over 32,000 fentanyl test strips to over 5,500 people;
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- Launched an unprecedented drug-checking pilot at syringe service programs to rapidly detect substances like xylazine that may be in the drug supply and give people who use drugs potentially lifesaving information about what they are using;
- Procured four public health vending machines as a part of a forthcoming 2023 pilot to support low-barrier access to naloxone, sterile syringes, and other harm reduction and wellness supplies;
- Provided critical funding to the 15 Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) in NYC which have served 18,529 individuals
- Funded, trained, and provided technical assistance to community-based organizations to expand access to same-day buprenorphine treatment for unstably housed individuals

Despite these efforts, racial and geographic disparities in overdose death widened in 2021, with some groups disproportionately bearing the increase in overdose deaths from 2020. Rates of overdose death were highest among Black New Yorkers for the second year in a row...Bronx residents had the highest rate of overdose death in 2021...and residents of very high poverty neighborhoods.

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

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## Our government representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NYC Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams** (speaker) [SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov), 718-206-2068 [council.nyc.gov/district-28](http://council.nyc.gov/district-28).

**Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine:** [manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-8300, [info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

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

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

**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](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/email-the-director.page)

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

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

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

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

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

**NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, 59th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/kristen-gonzalez](http://nysenate.gov/senators/kristen-gonzalez), [online contact form](http://nysenate.gov/senators/kristen-gonzalez/online-contact-form), 718-765-6674, [gonzalez@nysenate.gov](mailto:gonzalez@nysenate.gov),

**NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 47th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman](http://nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman), 212-633-8052, [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov).

**NY State Assembly Member Alex Bores, Assembly District 73**, 212-605-0937, [boresa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:boresa@nyassembly.gov), online contact form: [nyassembly.gov/mem/Alex-Bores/contact](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Alex-Bores/contact).

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

**NY Assembly Member Tony Simone , Assembly District 75**, [SimoneT@nyassembly.gov](mailto: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](https://nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming)

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

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

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

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

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

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