



**New York City Council Member**

**COREY JOHNSON**



Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Community Board 4 Report

Dear Friends:

The cold weather has not prevented us from achieving productive winter months at the City Council! I'd like to use this opportunity to share with you some recent accomplishments and initiatives on the part of both my office and our greater community.

As always, I am here to help. You can contact my District Office at (212) 564-7757 between 10 am and 6 pm on Mondays to Fridays, or email me at [district3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district3@council.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters "CJ" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Corey Johnson  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

## Introduced Legislation: HASA for All



### *Speaking out with advocates in front of City Hall*

On February 26, I was joined by colleagues and advocates including Housing Works, VOCAL NY, Bailey House and GMHC on the steps of City Hall to unveil long-sought legislation that would expand HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) benefits to all low-income, HIV+ New York City residents. Providing essential benefits to homeless and low-income people with HIV is a key step in ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York State. Allowing more individuals to qualify for housing, nutrition and transportation services through HASA will give low-income, HIV-positive individuals a foundation from which HIV treatment and care can be fully managed, reducing community viral loads and preventing significant numbers of new infections.

HIV/AIDS is a disease of inequities. Poverty, homelessness and a lack of access to healthcare are conditions that fuel the epidemic. The inability to obtain housing, food and other basic subsistence needs results in disconnection from HIV care, failure to achieve and maintain viral suppression, an increased risk of transmitting HIV to others. Our shared vision of ending the AIDS epidemic in our

State by 2020 will remain out of reach if we do not connect persons living with HIV access to proven intervention strategies.

## Introduced Legislation: Extending Rent Regulations

Every three years, New York City must declare a housing shortage emergency which allows our rent stabilization laws to be extended. I am proud to be the prime sponsor of this legislation in 2015, which I introduced at the Council's February 26 legislative session. This amendment of the administrative code will extend rent stabilization for another three years beginning on April 1, 2015. This triannual extension falls within months of the expiration of the rent laws in Albany. Busloads of New Yorkers who care about affordable housing, myself included, will go to Albany this session to demand that rent-stabilization laws be strengthened – not weakened. It is a battle we must win if we want to keep New York affordable for middle and working class families.

## 100% Permanent Affordable Housing for Slaughterhouse Site

On February 11, I presented a statement at Community Board 4's (CB4) Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Committee calling for 100 percent permanent affordable housing at the Slaughterhouse site at 493 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

In my statement, I noted that the Slaughterhouse site is a major component in CB4's Affordable Housing Plan. The site presents us with a major opportunity, but only if we maximize the amount of affordable housing it can offer.

It's estimated that a building on this site could generate 322 permanently affordable housing units. This would benefit hundreds of families who are struggling to stay in this community – a

necessity if we are to retain economic diversity. In addition, the location of the Slaughterhouse can accommodate greater density and aligns with Mayor de Blasio's stated plan for constructing affordable housing in areas that can absorb such density.

I look forward to working with New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and CB4 to ensure that this project meets the needs of the community and advances Mayor de Blasio's goal of building 80,000 new affordable housing units over the next decade. My statement in full is attached below as well as a letter I sent to EDC with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

### **Respect for All Week: School Visits to P.S. 3 and P.S. 33**



*Visiting PS33*

The Department of Education celebrated "Respect for All Week" from February 9 – 13, which places a special emphasis on respect, tolerance and kindness within schools. These are values that are practiced daily at the wonderful institutions in my district, but I was grateful to be able to visit P.S. 3 and P.S. 33 to see how Respect for All Week is celebrated within their school communities. I engaged in meaningful conversations with fourth graders at both

of these elementary schools, and am grateful to Principals Siegman and Lindy, respectively, for having me.

### **Participatory Budgeting Expo – Tuesday, March 24!**



You're invited to see the ideas that have been developed into proposals for Participatory Budgeting! On **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm** at the **Heiskell Library** located at **40 West 20th Street**, my office is hosting a Participatory Budgeting Expo for the community.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a new democratic process that gives residents an opportunity to decide how to spend a portion of our City's capital budget. Residents of the 3rd Council District decide how to spend at least \$1 million in capital funds. The money can be used for improvements to schools, streets, parks, public housing, and other community spaces. Volunteers have spent months developing these ideas into proposals, and come spring 2015, a public vote will be held to determine which projects get funded! If you would like more information about PB and want to get involved, please contact Matt Green at [212-564-7757](tel:212-564-7757), or by email at [mgreen@council.nyc.gov](mailto:mgreen@council.nyc.gov).

## Fire in an Illegal Hotel on West 46<sup>th</sup> Street

An event took place in my district this week that illustrates why New York City must do more to enforce its illegal hotel laws - before a truly tragic event takes place. In February a fire broke out at 412 West 46th Street, damaging the structure and forcing the relocation of families. This building is owned by Highpoint Associates LLC, one of New York City's most notorious illegal hotel operators. I am outraged that bad actors like Highpoint Associates continue to flourish across our City in violation of basic fire safety laws, endangering the safety of building residents and visitors alike.

Illegal hotel operators continue to make money hand-over-fist while their tenants go to sleep every night in buildings that lack basic fire safety features. Residents in my district have been increasingly affected by this problem. This month at City Hall, hundreds of New Yorkers attended our hearings about this issue - a reflection of the anxiety that people are feeling across the City. I want to thank the FDNY, NYPD and the American Red Cross for their swift response to Wednesday's fire. In the wake of the fire, I called on the City to prioritize fire safety inspections of illegal hotels due to the disproportionate public safety threat they pose. Illegal hotels are much more than just a threat to affordable housing and quality of life. They are a threat to people's lives.

## New NYC Condom Advertising Campaign Launched



*Speaking at the Museum of Sex*

On February 13, I was pleased to join colleagues of mine from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - particularly Assistant Commissioner Demetre Daskalakis, Deputy Commissioner Jay Varma and Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett - at the Museum of Sex to announce the launch of the new NYC Condom advertising campaign. The timing of this launch was ideal in recognition of both National Condom Awareness Day and Valentine's Day.

We have to continually remind people how important it is that they practice safe sex. The City began distributing condoms over four decades ago in 1971. The program has seen many expansions over the years; 2007 introduced the first NYC branded condom. The Department of Health presently distributes upwards of 38,000 condoms per year through over 3,500 partner organizations. The NYC Condom campaign will only increase access to preventative measures battling HIV/AIDS, other STDs, and unwanted teen pregnancies. This is why I enthusiastically support this campaign, which is a perfect example of what successful, collaborative public health efforts should look like today.



## Fighting for Full Service Animal Shelters Across NYC



*At the Health Committee oversight hearing*

On February 25, I chaired a Health Committee oversight hearing on Animal Care and Control: Recent Progress and Opportunities for Improvement in the NYC Animal Shelter System. The focus of the hearing was Council Member Paul Vallone's bill, which I am co-sponsoring, that would mandate full service animal shelters for every borough in the City. The City has made great strides in the past year with respect to animal care and control. Yet presently, Queens and the Bronx only have receiving centers that lack the veterinary and adoption services that the shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island have. These facilities simply do not have the resources to care for animals brought through their doors. The full service shelters they are brought to in the other three boroughs become even more overwhelmed. We can do better for these animals, which is why I am proud to stand beside Council Member Vallone in sponsorship of this bill.

## Participating in the HOPE 2015 Street Survey



*Bundling up with Council Member Steve Levin*

On February 9, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) conducted their annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) street survey of New York City's homeless population. Along with thousands of other volunteers, I bundled up to canvass the streets, parks and subways of the City to survey homeless New Yorkers and in turn, provide DHS with critical information to help those in need.

## Calling for Reform to the Permit Process for Events in Public Plazas

In light of recent large-scale events in my district due to NBA All-Star week, I wrote to Mayor de Blasio to request a meeting with his administration about the process by which large-scale events are permitted for pedestrian plazas. Given how disruptive these events can be to neighbors, the issuing of permits without giving enough regard to them has been concerning for several years. I believe that now is the time to address it in a comprehensive way. My letter in full is attached below.

## Standing with MFY Legal Services Workers in Their Strike for Higher Wages, Parental Leave and a Fair Contract



*Addressing union workers at a rally for the MFY Legal Services strike*

In the beginning of February, I rallied with MFY Legal Services unionized workers represented by the Legal Services Staff Association. 56 attorneys, paralegals, secretaries and other workers declared strike to demand higher wages, parental leave and an overall fair contract that serves their clients, lowest paid workers and most vulnerable members. These professionals give so much to our community; it is disgraceful that they encounter inequity in the work place on the part of their management.

## Applications Available: Governor Cuomo's New York Rising Community Center Program

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery has announced a new endeavor as a part of their New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) program called the New York Rising Community Center Program. It aims to promote community-based response to future storms; it also serves to facilitate a formal network of resilient facilities where community members can access services

and information. There will be approximately 36 centers chosen throughout the City.

Interested organizations must submit their applications by 5 pm on March 11, 2015 by email to [NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov).

## Free Monthly Legal Housing Clinic

My office helps constituents around my district with a wide range of issues. However, housing issues – particularly those that have to do with landlord harassment/disputes – account for an outstanding number of these constituent cases.

We have therefore begun to offer housing clinics at my district office (224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206) on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-7:30 pm. **The next clinic will be on Tuesday, March 10.**

At these clinics, you can receive free legal advice from housing attorneys who will be volunteering their time. You will be seen on a first come, first serve basis.

## Public Art Opportunity!

The 2015 Clare Weiss Emerging Artist Award will be taking place at Court Square Park in Long Island City, Queens! The \$10,000 award is granted to one emerging artist who submits the most compelling proposal for an outdoor sculpture in Court Square. The location changes annually and is determined based on the site's visibility and proximity within a neighborhood underserved by public art. The deadline for applications is March 22, 2015. For more information, please visit the NYC Parks Department's website: <http://www.nycgovparks.org/art-and-antiquities/clare-weiss-award>.

## **Applications Available: Governor Cuomo's New York Rising Community Center Program**

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery has announced a new endeavor as a part of their New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) program called the New York Rising Community Center Program. It aims to promote community-based response to future storms; it also serves to facilitate a formal network of resilient facilities where community members can access services and information. As part of the nearly \$40 million undertaking, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) will fund and directly manage the retrofit of selected community facilities and provide funding required by nonprofit organizations in the delivery of services and coordination at Centers.

Interested organizations must submit their applications by 5 pm on March 11, 2015 by email to:

[NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov).

## **DYCD Now Accepting Summer Youth Employment Applications!**

The NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

SYEP provides youth between the ages of 14-24 with paid summer employment and job readiness training for up to 6 weeks in July and August. The deadline to submit applications is April 10, 2015.

Programs are located in community-based organizations across the five boroughs and participants are selected by lottery. DYCD also offers specialized programming for disabled, foster care,

runaway/homeless and court-involved youth.

### **For Youth:**

Youth can apply for the program at <https://application.nycsyep.com/> or at a community-based organization during the application period.

### **For Community-Based Organizations:**

Community-based organizations interested in becoming a SYEP provider or worksite can apply online here: <https://worksitepreapp.nycsyep.com/Pages/SystemAccess/Default.aspx>

Additional information about SYEP, including applications and flyers, can be found on DYCD's website at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd).

## **Get Involved in the NYC Debate League!**

The New York City Debate League has a mission: every school should have a debate team and every student should have access to the best debate education opportunities. Housed right in my district, this wonderful organization recently met with my office to inform us of their initiatives in the community. Open to students at the elementary, middle and high school level, the League provides practices every day, tournaments every weekend, workshops every month, and summer debate camps from the first day of summer to the last day of summer. For more information about getting involved – whether you are an educator looking to start a club at your school or a student looking to join an existing program – visit <http://www.nycudl.org/>.







**STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER COREY JOHNSON REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 493 11<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BEFORE COMMUNITY BOARD 4 AND THE NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015**

As the representative of Council District 3 in the New York City Council, which includes Manhattan's West Side, I want to thank the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for working with Community Board 4 (CB4) on redeveloping the former Slaughterhouse site at 493 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue for affordable housing. Last year, CB4 answered Mayor de Blasio's call for potential affordable housing sites and brought this site to our attention. I thank them for that.

This is a critical discussion. For as far back as anyone can remember, Manhattan's West Side has been known as a quintessential melting pot. Diversity – economic, ethnic and cultural – is something that makes us who we are. In the coming years we will be faced with a choice. Are we going to be a neighborhood of luxury housing - with part-time residents from around the globe – or are we going to be a neighborhood of families, full-time residents who send their children to our schools, beautify our blocks and contribute to the fabric of New York?

Two weeks ago, during his State of the City address, Mayor de Blasio said it perfectly: we cannot allow our City to be defined by exclusivity, rather than opportunity. With thousands of units of luxury housing poised to come online on the West Side within the next few years, the challenge we face is to retain economic diversity in our neighborhood.

The Slaughterhouse site, a major component in CB4's Affordable Housing Plan, presents us with a major opportunity, but only if we maximize the amount of affordable housing it can offer. It's estimated that a building on this site could generate 322 permanently affordable housing units. This would benefit hundreds of families who are struggling to stay in this community – a necessity if we are to retain economic diversity in our community. In addition, the location of the Slaughterhouse can accommodate greater density and aligns with Mayor de Blasio's stated plan for constructing affordable housing in areas that can absorb such density.

We are fortunate to live in this community. We have high quality schools, low crime, and access to jobs. Our neighborhood can offer the greatest opportunity for middle and low-income New Yorkers. If we fail to build diverse neighborhoods, we continue to run the risk of creating even larger disparities between the rich and the poor.

Let's use this opportunity to make the Slaughterhouse site a model for creating an economically diverse community. Let's build a building that is affordable, covers a wide range of income bands, and is well connected to cultural and community amenities.

I look forward to working with EDC and CB4 to ensure that this project meets the needs of the community and advances Mayor de Blasio's goal of building 80,000 new affordable housing units over the next decade.

Thank you.



CITY OF NEW YORK

COREY JOHNSON  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 3  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1856  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

GALE A. BREWER  
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
1 CENTRE STREET, 19<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

February 10, 2015

Kyle Kimball, President  
New York City Economic Development Corporation  
110 William St. New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Kimball:

As the elected officials who participate in the New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), we write to express our desire that the application to rezone and dispose of the publically-owned land at the former Slaughterhouse site at 493 Eleventh Avenue be used for affordable housing.

We recommend that the Request for Proposal to develop this site include 100 percent, permanently affordable housing units and a provision that would provide a nonprofit organization to manage the project.

The Slaughterhouse site is a major component of Community Board 4's (CB4) Affordable Housing Plan, which was approved at the full board meeting in July 2014. It's estimated that a building on this site could generate 322 permanently affordable housing units if rezoned to C6-4. In addition, the location of the Slaughterhouse can accommodate greater density and aligns with Mayor de Blasio's stated plan for constructing affordable housing in areas that can absorb such density.

We thank the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for working with CB4 on a proposal for this site and appreciate their commitment to this public process.

We look forward to working with EDC and CB4 to ensure that this project meets the needs of this community and advances Mayor de Blasio's goal of building 80,000 new affordable housing units over the next decade.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson  
NYC Council Member  
3<sup>rd</sup> Council District

Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President





**COREY JOHNSON**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 3



**THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**CHAIR  
HEALTH**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
224 WEST 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET – SUITE 1206  
NEW YORK, NY 10001  
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**FAX:** (212) 564-7347

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY - SUITE 1804  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-6979

**COMMITTEES**  
GENERAL WELFARE  
FINANCE  
WATERFRONTS  
CONTRACTS  
MENTAL HEALTH

February 6, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

As the New York City Council Member representing the 3rd District, I am writing to request a meeting with your administration about the process by which large-scale events are permitted for pedestrian plazas. This has been an issue of concern to our communities for several years, and now is the time to address it in a comprehensive way.

An upcoming promotional concert, scheduled to take place at the Flatiron Pedestrian Plaza on February 12th in conjunction with NBA All-Star Weekend, has made it clear that we, as elected officials, need to address the process by which large-scale events are permitted. This event is expected to draw 10,000 attendees to the Flatiron Pedestrian Plaza. Though it is scheduled to last less than an hour, construction is scheduled to take place on a 24/7 basis over at least three days. Heavy machinery will be operated in close proximity to homes and businesses at all hours of the day, and public utilities will be moved or rendered useless during the construction process. Clearly, this is an event better suited for Times Square.

Despite the clear disruption that this event will cause, Community Board Five was not included in the approval process for this event, nor were any relevant stakeholders, including the Flatiron Business Improvement District.

We must consider how the permitting process can be amended. It is my understanding that the Street Activity Permit Office automatically grants approval to events, provided they meet certain basic requirements. While minimal standards may be appropriate for small-scale events, larger ones ought to require greater scrutiny. As the upcoming concert highlights, these events have the potential to cause great disruption to residents and small businesses. When the City grants approval to such an event without public involvement, it sends the message that municipal government favors corporate interests over the interests of communities.

The Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership has done a commendable job in its efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the February 12th event. But if we can make the proper adjustments to the permitting process, we will create an environment in which special events take place without usurping public space or causing harm to communities.

I hope this meeting can take place as soon as possible and that it will include representatives from the Mayor's office, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Citywide Event Coordination and

Management, the Street Activity Permit Office, Community Board Five, the Flatiron/23rdStreet Partnership and elected officials.

To schedule this meeting, please contact my Chief of Staff, Erik Bottcher at (212) 564-7757.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corey Johnson  
Council Member  
District 3



# LET'S TALK!

A series hosted by



Council Member  
**Corey Johnson**

3rd District, Manhattan



## REFORMING THE RENT GUIDELINES BOARD

Join Council Member Corey Johnson, housing policy experts and tenant organizers for a discussion about reforming the Rent Guidelines Board and confronting New York City's affordability crisis.

### PANELISTS:

- **Timothy L. Collins** - Partner, Collins, Dobkin & Miller, Former Executive Director, Rent Guidelines Board
- **Sheila Garcia** - Tenant Representative, Rent Guidelines Board
- **Delsenia Glover** - Campaign Manager, the Alliance for Tenant Power
- **Ilana Maier** - Program Director, Metropolitan Council on Housing

### CO-SPONSORS:

**US Representatives**

**Carolyn Maloney**

**Jerrold Nadler**

**Manhattan Borough President**

**Gale Brewer**

**State Senators**

**Brad Hoylman**

**Liz Krueger**

and **Daniel Squadron**

**Assembly Members**

**Deborah Glick,**

**Dick Gottfried**

and **Linda B. Rosenthal**

**When:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** P.S. 3 Auditorium

490 Hudson Street

(between Grove & Christopher Streets)

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [district3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district3@council.nyc.gov) or by calling **212-564-7757**