



**New York City Council Member**

**COREY JOHNSON**



Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some important updates from our office, as well as events and programs that have been taking place in our district this summer.

Please know that my staff is always available to answer questions and help you wherever possible. They can be reached at our District Office at 212-564-7757. You can also email me anytime at [district3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district3@council.nyc.gov).

I hope to see you around the neighborhood soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CJ".

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

224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street • Suite 1206 • New York, NY • 10001  
District3@council.nyc.gov  
212-564-7757

## Join us on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> to learn more about Participatory Budgeting

Last month, my office held an introductory meeting for members of our community to learn more about Participatory Budgeting (PB), a democratic process that gives residents an opportunity to decide how a portion of our City's capital budget is spent. These funds can be used for improvements to schools, streets, parks, public housing, and other community spaces. But we need you at the table before any of this can happen!

Beginning this fall, district residents will come together in public meetings to discuss local needs and brainstorm ways to address them. Volunteers will develop these ideas into concrete proposals, then, in the spring, a public vote will be held to determine which projects will be funded.

If you were unable to attend this info session, but want to get involved, I invite you to attend our 2nd PB info session on **Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 pm at Hudson Guild at 441 West 26th Street (between Ninth & Tenth Avenues)**. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Matt Green in my office at [mgreen@council.nyc.gov](mailto:mgreen@council.nyc.gov) or **212-564-7757**.

## City Council Passes 2015 Budget

In June, after hundreds of hours of hearings, the City Council passed the 2015 budget. It was a victory for New Yorkers and this budget sets the City on a sound footing towards reducing income inequality, improving education and infrastructure, making our neighborhoods safer, and providing employment opportunities for more New Yorkers.

The budget was also a victory for the 3rd Council District, where in the years ahead you'll find a renovated Dog Run on Leroy Street in the Hudson River Park, as well as new and improved basketball courts at Chelsea Waterside Park. Downing Street Playground and Jane Street Garden will receive capital improvements, and Clement Clark Moore Park and Matthews Palmer Playground will both receive significant upgrades. Greenwich House, the Hudson Guild, and Hartley House will continue to offer their services because of funding I was able to secure. As our community is home to some of the City's most important and imminent cultural institutions, capital dollars will continue to support our district's theaters, as well. My office also

awarded \$685,000 in grant money to small non-profit and neighborhood organizations which provide a myriad of services across the district.

In terms of city-wide reforms, over \$28 million in Health Prevention and Promotion Services was secured to set New York on the right path towards solving inequities in access to health care and creating a healthier New York. Five million dollars will fund the Anti-Eviction Legal Services program, which provides legal assistance to low- and moderate-income families facing illegal evictions while helping to improve housing conditions. The Council will also invest \$10 million to create thousands of child care vouchers for low income families and ensure parents can offer their children high quality childcare.

## Buy Local, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

I'm thrilled to announce that my office, together with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, has launched the Westside Senior Supported Agriculture (WSSA) Food Bag Program this summer in our district. **For only \$8 dollars you can receive a mixed bag of fresh, locally grown produce every other week from farmers in New York and Pennsylvania.**

WSSA is a program in its third year that provides people with affordable, fresh produce grown on local farms. Every other week, participants order and pay for the bag, and the following week, pick-up the pre-packed Food Bag filled with seasonal fruits and vegetables at locations around the neighborhood. My office is acting with a sign-up and pick-up location, located at **224 West 30th Street, Suite #1206, New York, NY**. If you would like to join in this wonderful program and receive fresh produce, please contact my District Office at **212-564-7757**. We are happy to help you get enrolled.

Please see the list of order and delivery dates for the rest of this summer and the fall below:

Order Date	Delivery Date
Monday, August 4 or Tuesday, August 5	Wednesday, August 13
Monday, August 18 or Tuesday, August 19	Wednesday, August 27

Tuesday, September 2 or Wednesday, September 3	Wednesday, September 10
Monday, September 15 or Tuesday, September 16	Wednesday, September 24
Monday, September 29 or Tuesday, September 30	Wednesday, October 8
Monday, October 13 or Tuesday, October 14	Wednesday, October 22

## Free Summer Meals Program Underway

Through a partnership with the office of New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and numerous City agencies, I am thrilled to report that our free summer meals program for all New York City children is well underway.

Beginning June 27, families can call 311, text "NYCMeals" to 877-877, or visit [www.schoolfoodnyc.org](http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org) to find an open public school, library, pool, park, or mobile truck nearest to them where children can receive breakfast from 8:00 am to 9:15 am and lunch from 11:00 am to 1:15 pm. The program will run through August 29, ensuring that children are well fed when school is not in session.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Street High Line Elevator

I'm pleased to report that the 23rd Street elevator at the High Line is up and running. During Hurricane Sandy, salt water from the Hudson River surged to 10th Avenue, completely flooding the underground vault below the High Line that powers the elevator. The extensive damage caused by the salt water necessitated a full rebuild of the elevator's systems.

According to Friends of the High Line, the elevator's new, upgraded systems will bring improved and more reliable service to the public. The High Line is a community asset that everyone should have access to, and fixing this elevator was a top priority for the Friends of the High Line and the Parks and NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. I hope everyone is able to enjoy this beautiful park over the summer.

## How My Office Helps the Community: Navigating DOE Admissions

Last month, our office received a letter from a family highlighting their daughter's difficulty being admitted into a New York City public middle school for the upcoming school year. Their daughter had attended schools in our neighborhood her whole life until accompanying her mother overseas for business purposes and attending school abroad for the past couple of years. The young student, upon her return, had been mistakenly labeled as a foreign resident and therefore of the lowest application priority during the Department of Education (DOE) enrollment process. She was denied admission to every middle school the family had selected. By contacting our office, we were able to direct the family to one of the brand new middle schools in our district, City Knoll Middle School, and the student gained admission! The school even has a special arts programming that she is especially interested in.

## **Health Committee and Legislative Update:**

### **Hepatitis Awareness Week**

On July 20, I was proud to launch along with my colleagues Council Members Chin and Koo, the first ever NYC Hepatitis B Awareness Week. This week of events, sponsored by the NYC Hepatitis B Coalition, seeks to build Hepatitis B awareness, renew support for people living with chronic Hepatitis B, and encourage all New Yorkers to learn their status and receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. This announcement builds upon a recent hearing in the Health Committee, which I chair, in June about Int. 51 to require the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to publish an annual report on its efforts to identify and prevent the spread of Hepatitis B and C as well as the creation of a new \$750,000 initiative in the budget to support organizations providing testing, treatment and support to communities at risk for Hepatitis B and C.

### **Wage Transparency Legislation**

Earlier this year, I introduced Int 197. This legislation would codify workers' rights to wage transparency, a necessary step on the road toward ensuring the elimination of wage discrimination in the workplace. Intro 197 will protect employees from adverse and/or retaliatory personnel actions by their employers if they inquire about, disclose, compare or otherwise discuss their wages or benefits or the wages or benefits of another employee.

Wage discrimination is an unjust, outdated practice that unfortunately remains prevalent in today's society. Recent data released by the New York Women's Equality Coalition finds that women in New York earn 84% of what men earn. This wage discrepancy is more severe for African-American and Hispanic women, who, respectively, earn just 79% and 64% of what non-Hispanic men in New York State earn.

It is incumbent that we ensure employees are receiving equal pay for equal work regardless of gender, race, and sexual orientation. The right to wage transparency, absent the fear of retaliation, is a critical step to eliminating this discrimination.

Over 60% of private sector employees in the U.S. report being discouraged or prohibited from discussing wage or salary information. Such barriers impede any ability to pursue existing protections in the law for those suffering from wage discrimination. If we want to move closer toward achieving equal pay for equal work, then we must first protect the employees' right to wage transparency. I am proud to be taking this essential first step toward ending wage discrimination and upholding the city's tenet of justice for all.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Civil Service & Labor and I am working closely with Chair I. Daneek Miller to schedule a hearing for the fall.



July 18, 2014

Shola Olatoye  
CEO and Chair  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Eytan Benyamin  
CEO and Chairman  
Artimus Construction  
316 West 118 Street  
New York, NY 10026

Dear Ms. Olatoye and Mr. Benyamin:

More than seven months have passed since the New York City Planning Commission approved a zoning map amendment and a zoning authorization to facilitate Artimus Construction's development of 158 units of permanently affordable housing on a parking lot in the New York City Housing Authority's Fulton Houses development.

The community has not seen any progress made on the housing or the promised work on the basketball court and the play area within Fulton Houses. As representatives of Fulton Houses, we request an update on the plans for the building's construction as well as for the much-needed improvements Artimus committed to make to the basketball court and the play area.

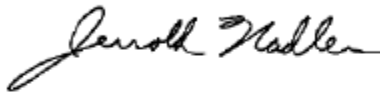
The new affordable housing and improvements to the basketball court and playground were welcomed by the Chelsea community when this project was presented to Manhattan Community Board 4. The promised open space upgrades are especially critical for the large young population of the Fulton Houses whose existing recreation spaces are run down and hazardous. Neighbors are eager to see both the housing development and open space renovations take place as soon as possible.

We ask that you or your representatives attend a meeting of community stakeholders in order to provide an update on the status of the project, as well as any

conditions that could be holding up its progress and what can be done to get the work started and completed. We hope you will participate and eagerly await your response with your availability.

If you have any questions, please contact Maya Kurien in Senator Hoylman's office at [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:2126338052).

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
United States Representative



Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President



Brad Hoylman  
State Senator



Richard Gottfried  
Assembly Member



Corey Johnson  
Council Member

Cc: Miguel Acevedo, Fulton Tenant Association  
Cc: Patrick Chan, Fulton Houses Management Office  
Cc: Manhattan Community Board 4



July 23, 2014

Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione:

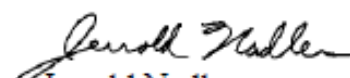
We are writing in support of a longstanding request of Manhattan Community Board Four (CB4) for left-turn signals on Eighth Avenue at the southwest corners of West 25th and West 29th Street, including separate (north/south) pedestrian crossing times. CB4 originally requested these split-phase signals in conjunction with the installation of protected bike lanes along Eighth Avenue.

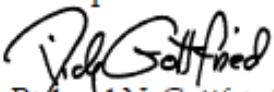
CB4's April 3, 2014 letter on this topic notes that Eighth Avenue from West 23rd to West 34th Streets is adjacent to Penn South, a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC), and cites the section of the avenue's high rate of pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicle accident related injuries.


As you know, the simple right-of-way afforded to pedestrians at intersections with conventional signal phasing has too often proven insufficient to prevent serious accidents. While protected bike lanes significantly reduce pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities along the routes, pedestrians crossing north-south and south-north at high-traffic intersections remain at substantial risk of being hit by turning cars.

We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Jerrold Nadler  
US Representative

  
Richard N. Gottfried  
NYS Assembly Member

  
Brad Hoylman  
NY State Senator

  
Corey Johnson  
NYC Council Member

cc: Manhattan Community Board 4