



New York City Council Member

COREY JOHNSON



Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you had a wonderful summer and Labor Day weekend.

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.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood soon.

Sincerely,

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

Corey Johnson
Councilmember, 3rd District

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District3@council.nyc.gov
212-564-7757

We Need You on Friday, September 12: Anti-Illegal Hotel Rally!

On Friday, September 12th at 11:00 AM please join me and your neighbors at the steps of City Hall for an Anti-Illegal Hotel Rally!

We will be sending a strong message to City Hall that we are against the illegal hotel operation which is creating fire and health safety hazards for residents and tourists, contributes to the decimation of NYC's already-scarce supply of affordable housing, and results in evictions because residents who rent out their apartments, even if they own them, may not know they run the risk of being evicted for profiteering in violation of their leases.

We hope you can join us for this important rally to support our neighborhood and affordable housing stock on Friday, September 12th at 11 AM on the steps of City Hall.

Testimony on Flood Mitigation in New York City

On August 7, I submitted testimony on The Department of Transportation's proposed Flood Mitigation Rules. The rules put forth a plan to issue permits and revocable consents that building owners can obtain in order to install flood mitigation systems like walls or barriers that would protect their buildings in the instance of future severe weather-related events like Superstorm Sandy in 2012. As a significant portion of our district was flooded during Sandy – and there are still parts of our community dealing with the aftermath of the storm – I applaud the individual efforts of building owners to combat the effects of climate change and the DOT's willingness to aid them in doing so. However, climate change is an intense, global phenomenon that has caused sea levels to rise. New York City is surrounded by water and therefore cannot rely on building owners alone to prepare for superstorm. I believe we must plan through a wider lens and work to install a citywide protection system. My full testimony is attached.

Banning Hydrofracking Waste

I am strongly against the practice of hydrofracking (also known as fracking). Extracting natural gas by fracking creates a tremendous amount of toxic waste and we must ensure its disposal or alternative use does not endanger our city.

That is why last month, I was proud to introduce new legislation with my City Council colleague Council Member Stephen Levin that would ban the discharge, disposal, sale or use of any wastewater or natural gas waste produced by fracking in New York City.

While I believe that hydro-fracking should be banned outright in New York State, it is important to put protections in place while the process is still in legal limbo. This legislation will do that.

Providing Greater Oversight of the City's Correctional Facilities

The violence against inmates at Rikers Island needs to stop, and the death of Carlos Mercado was heartbreaking.

According to the lawsuit against the Department of Corrections and its health provider, Corizon Health, Carlos died after guards failed to respond to his pleas for medical treatment.

Last month, I introduced a bill that would increase the scrutiny of healthcare providers at all correctional facilities to help prevent medical negligence in our city's jail system.

Making Happy Meals Healthy

Did you know that 95 percent of kids' meals at the top chain restaurants are unhealthy? Yet these meals often come with a toy, which I believe gives kids an incentive to order an unhealthy meal.

Last month, I co-sponsored a bill with Council Member Ben Kallos that would ban fast food restaurants from offering free toys and other incentives with kids' meals. This legislation would also require the inclusion of a fruit, a vegetable or a whole grain serving in the kid's meal.

It's important that we teach our children healthy food habits, and stop incentivizing unhealthy food choices to children. This bill is a step in the right direction to do so.

Creating Public Open Space at Water Tunnel Site #3

Earlier this month, along with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and NYC Council Members Margaret Chin and Rosie Mendez, I sent a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) urging them to follow through with commitments that they had made to capitalize on public open space opportunities at three different Water Tunnel #3 shaft sites in the Community Board 2.

Water Tunnel #3 shaft sites in Community Board 2. Two of these water shaft sites fall into our City Council District, under Hudson Street between West Houston and Clarkson, as well as under Gansevoort Street between 9th Avenue and West 4th Street (where Seravelli Park was closed for years due to the project, and though it has since been restored, this stretch of road has remained closed).

I have also expressed concern with DEP regarding open space at another shaft site in our district up in Hell's Kitchen on 10th Avenue between 47th and 48th Streets. Over the past forty years, Water Tunnel #3 has been in progress; as the project is now finally nearing completion, I will continue to have conversations with our colleagues at DEP to ensure that these commitments on public open space are followed through on. Attached is our letter.

Mrs. Green's Natural Market

Last month, I signed on to a letter with State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Deborah Glick to express our concern over Mrs. Green's Natural Market's approach to labor relations in their new store at 585 Hudson Street.

We are troubled by media reports of Mrs. Green's apparent violation of federal labor law in response to an attempt by some of the Westchester employees to organize a union.

It's our belief that all businesses operating in the neighborhood should be law-abiding and provide good, well-paying jobs that will help us continue to build a strong middle class and a healthier New York.

The opportunity for workers to organize, free from retaliation or intimidation, is a well-established right in American law. The possibility that a business in our district may violate its employees' legal rights gives us significant pause. Attached is our letter.

Buy Local, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables this Fall!

Even though summer has officially ended, the harvest season is still in full swing and there are three more weeks for you to receive a bag of fresh produce through my office's food bag program. **For only \$8 dollars you can receive a mixed bag of fresh, locally grown produce from farmers in New York and Pennsylvania.**

West Side Senior Supported Agriculture is a program in its third year that provides older adults with affordable, fresh produce grown on local

farms. Every two weeks, participants can order and pick-up their pre-packed Food Bag filled with seasonal fruits and vegetables at a West Side senior center. The Food Bag sign-up and pick-up location is at our District Office which is 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. Below are the remaining order and delivery dates for the fall.

Order Date	Delivery Date
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

How My Office Helps the Community: Extending the Senior Splash Program

The Parks Department runs a fantastic senior swimming program every summer at Tony Dinapoli Recreation Center in the West Village called Senior Splash.

Senior Splash offers water exercise classes and swim instruction for senior citizens, and includes lap swimming and water ballet. Last month, one of my constituents contacted our office to let us know that this senior program ends a week before our public pools officially close on September 1.

It seems right to me that seniors should be able to enjoy a full summer of swimming activities as long as our public pools remain open.

My office called the Parks Department and requested that Senior Splash be extended through the regular swimming season. As a result, we were able to extend the Senior Splash Program for another week!

over, please

Back to School: More Afterschool Programs Available in NYC

Thanks to Mayor de Blasio's recent \$145 million dollar investment to after school programs across the five boroughs, students have more opportunities following the final bell than ever before.

The Comprehensive After School System of NYC (COMPASS NYC) hosts programs for children in grades K-5. SONYC (School's Out New York City) has expanded to match the availability of COMPASS NYC's programs so that students grades 6-8 have a range of afterschool options, as well. These programs vary in area from sports to arts, and require youth leadership through service. They are offered Monday-Friday, and will begin on September 8th. The programs are offered in public and private schools, community centers, religious institutions, public housing, and recreational facilities throughout the City. To register, visit the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development's website.

LGBTQ Youth Job & Career Fair

On Thursday, September 25th, the New York State Labor Department is holding a Youth Employment Date for jobseekers 16 to 25 years of age.

This job fair will be held at the LGBT Center located at 208 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011 (between 7th and Greenwich Avenues – A, C, E, L, 1, 2 or 3 trains to 14th Street Stop). Lunch will be served!

At this job fair you will:

- Learn your rights! – Hear from Department of Labor and Division of Human Rights experts
- Meet ready-to-hire employers
- Be inspired! Hear how other young adults found employment

Doors open at 11:00 am. Contact Scott Melvin to RSVP at (718) 613-3971 or scott.melvin@labor.ny.gov

Health Committee Update:

On September 4, I will be co-chairing a hearing with Aging Chair Margaret Chin about a bill we've cosponsored to regulate Social Adult Day Care (SADS). SADS provide daytime socialization for senior citizens who require long-term care for health conditions however there is currently no oversight for privately-run centers despite receiving large sums of New York State Medicaid funding. In response to documented cases of centers fraudulently profiting off these Medicaid funds while providing substandard care or catering to ineligible populations, this legislation would establish regulation to stop these abusive business practices.

COREY JOHNSON
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 3

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Flood Mitigation: A Citywide Solution is Needed

**Testimony by Council Member Corey Johnson
For the hearing on
The Department of Transportation's Proposed Flood Mitigation Rules
August 7, 2014
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041**

Good morning. I am Council Member Corey Johnson, and I represent District 3 in the New York City Council, which covers Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, the West Village, and parts of SoHo and the Upper West Side. I would like to thank the Department of Transportation for holding this hearing today, and for giving me the opportunity to testify.

The Department of Transportation's proposed Flood Mitigation Rules put forth a plan to issue permits and revocable consents that building owners can obtain in order to install flood mitigation systems like walls or barriers that would protect their buildings in the instance of future severe weather-related events like Superstorm Sandy in 2012. A significant portion of my district was flooded during Sandy, and there are still parts of the community dealing with the aftermath of the storm.

I applaud the individual efforts of building owners to combat the effects of climate change and the DOT's willingness to aid them in doing so. However, climate change is an intense, global phenomenon that has increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and caused sea levels to rise. New York City is surrounded by water and therefore cannot rely on building owners alone to prepare for superstorms; a citywide protection system must be installed.

Superstorms larger than Sandy, too, are expected by the year 2020. These issues do not only affect people who can pay \$2,000 to obtain a permit to protect their buildings. I do not believe these individualistic, block by block efforts such as sealants, wells, and gates on individual properties are systemic solutions. They are unobtainable by much of the population and do not protect the masses. The proposed solutions also impede on public space by giving building owners the ability to further encroach onto sidewalks and roadways.

We need to address tidal surge preparedness due to climate change's extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels at a city-wide, systemic level to truly remedy these problems in a long term way.

As a crucial player in the tri-state area, New York City must act on this area's most pertinent problems. The New York Bight, which is a geographical feature that puts New York at greater risk from storm surges, is unique and therefore requires special attention to prevent damaging amounts of water from coming into the Lower New York Bay. As water temperatures continue to rise, the Gulf Stream is no longer as effective in taking hurricanes out to sea as it has been in the past; this means that the storms hit harder here and the New York Bight gains more power.

I support the proposition of a feasibility study to be conducted looking into the installation of storm surge barriers in the Lower Bay between Sandy Hook and the Rockaways as well as in Eastchester Bay at Throggs Neck. This study should begin in earnest by an appropriately accredited organization.

Should our city invest in storm surge barriers to protect its residents, we would join the ranks of many cities and countries globally that have successfully used these tactics, including: Stamford, CT; Providence, RI; New Bedford, MA; New Orleans, LA; London, St. Petersburg, Rotterdam, and various cities in Japan, Korea, and Germany. Clearly, climate change has a global reach and the list of aforementioned cities and countries speaks to how this is a global issue that needs local mitigation.

I must reiterate that these assertions should not serve to discredit the efforts of the DOT and the New Yorkers who have taken matters into their own hands to think ahead proactively and preventatively. As a city, however, we must plan through a wider lens and to protect the entirety of this city by regionally combatting the effects of climate change. Sea gates and storm surge barriers can achieve this.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here today.



July 31, 2014

Sherry Nolan-Schultz
Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer
Natural Markets Food Group
One Bridge Street, Suite 3
Irvington, NY 10533

Dear Ms. Nolan-Schultz:

As representatives of the West Village, we are writing to express our concern over Mrs. Green's Natural Market's approach to labor relations in your new store at 585 Hudson Street.

We look forward to having another organic market in the West Village that will provide another option for our constituents seeking healthy food. However, we believe that all businesses operating in the neighborhood should be law-abiding and provide good, well-paying jobs that will help us continue to build a strong middle class and a healthier New York.

The opportunity for workers to organize, free from retaliation or intimidation, is a well-established right in American law. We are troubled by media reports of Mrs. Green's apparent violation of federal labor law in response to an attempt by some of your Westchester employees to organize a union. The possibility that a business in our district may violate its employees' legal rights gives us significant pause. Therefore, we urge Mrs. Green's to provide all employees of the new Hudson Street store with an intimidation-free environment, in which they can freely exercise their right to organize if they are so inclined.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue, please contact Max Markham in Senator Hoylman's office at (212) 633-8052.

Respectfully,

Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator

Deborah J. Glick
NYS Assembly Member

Corey Johnson
NYC Councilman



September 2, 2014

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11372

Dear Commissioner Lloyd:

We are writing to follow up on the enclosed resolution passed unanimously at the June meeting of Manhattan Community Board 2 regarding the commitments of DEP with respect to public open space opportunities at Water Tunnel #3 shaft sites 28B, 30B, and 31B.

Community District 2 ranks near the bottom for park space among districts citywide and it consists of almost entirely developed land with rare opportunities for new open space. That is one reason why CB 2 has a deep and longstanding commitment to improving open space access in the district, a commitment that has always had strong support from local elected officials as well as City agencies.

During the planning stages for the water tunnel shaft sites, CB2 cooperated with DEP in locating and winning neighborhood support for four sites, each requiring substantial disruption for residents and businesses in the area. CB 2 even supported multi-year closings of a large part of one of our most important recreational parks, Seravalli Park, to accommodate construction needs of the shaft located under Gansevoort Street. While we appreciate that DEP funded the restoration of the park as your agency had promised to, the disruption to the park extended for years beyond the projection, and the closing of Gansevoort Street continues to this day after driving out small stores on the block.

During this period CB2 had one request, to which DEP responded favorably: the use of the sites for public open space when construction of the shafts was complete. The wait for these sites has far exceeded what was anticipated, but CB2 has remained supportive of the project throughout. Therefore it was with dismay that we heard, at a CB2 Parks Committee hearing, that DEP has decided to withdraw its commitment for future public use of Shaft 31B, which is located on East 4th Street between Bowery and Lafayette. It is important to note that the agenda item at the hearing related only to the design of a fence for the site, and even the fence was initially discussed as at a previous meeting of the CB2 Environmental Committee as an interim installation intended only until discussions regarding permanent status of the site were concluded.

The announcement by a DEP representative that policy regarding this site had been changed without notice and without any opportunity for public discussion came as a shock to all of us. We are all equally concerned about the future public use of all three of the sites.


Council Member Margaret Chin has already allocated \$250,000 to Shaft 30B, located on the northwest corner of Grand Street and Lafayette Street. In addition, your agency indicated to Council Member Chin in October 2013 that we could expect an MOU with Parks in November 2013, a promise that never materialized. Shaft 28B, located on Hudson Street between West Houston and Clarkson, requires recommitment and follow through from DEP as well.

The neighborhood has understood the importance of the project for the entire city and has remained patient and supportive. Now it is time for an open discussion of agreements that will form the framework for maximizing the public use of these sites, as promised, in the context of course of safeguarding the DEP infrastructure and providing for required maintenance access for facilities. Please contact Patricia Ceccarelli, Community Liaison at Manhattan Borough President Brewer's Office, at 212-669-8774 with any questions.

Sincerely,



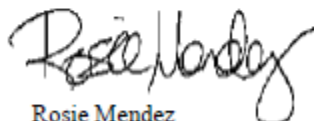
Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Margaret S. Chin
NYC Council Member



Corey Johnson
NYC Council Member



Rosie Mendez
NYC Council Member

Enclosure

cc: Community Board 2, Manhattan