



# Helen Rosenthal

Council Member, 6<sup>th</sup> District



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## May Update

Dear Neighbors,

Just when we thought it couldn't get any busier... it did! Busy and very exciting. After a lot of hard work by many community residents and elected officials, the past month has yielded some big wins for our community. We are moving forward with the new school in the Beacon location, and it will be listed in this Fall's Middle School Directory, which will help it on its path to success. The new residential development at 606 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street is more nuanced. The details are below and, as always, I urge you to reach out to my office with any comments or concerns.

Hope you have some time to enjoy the great weather (the tulips at the **West Side Community Garden** on West 89<sup>th</sup> Street between Amsterdam and Columbus are uplifting).

### Beacon

After years of hard work and advocacy, District 3 will have a new school to serve grades 6-12. In September 2015 Beacon High School will move into its new home downtown, and 227 West 61st Street will be transformed into a brand new middle school and high school. **The new school will be listed in this Fall's Middle School Directory**, along with critical information such as the school leader and programmatic details, and its first potential students will be able to list it on the application **within the first round of the middle school process**.

### TF Cornerstone

Last month the City Council Land Use Committee voted in support of the TF Cornerstone proposal to build a high-rise apartment building at 606 W. 57th Street. In negotiations with TF Cornerstone, I was able to secure a **new public school pre-K** where the developer will pay for the buildout and the DOE will lease the space. **It will be the first public pre-K in the District**. I also secured 20% of the units for **permanent affordable housing** as well as an additional 20 family sized middle income apartments, integrated throughout the building with the same amenities as the market units, and **\$100,000 to improve the local park, Clinton Cove**. Given the size of this building (over 1,000 units in total), and the pending overdevelopment along West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, I've asked my colleagues (especially Dan Garodnick and Corey Johnson) to work with me to ensure that city services will appropriately accommodate the increased number of residents, including the need for a new school and additional buses as well as the increase in traffic congestion.

## Town Hall

Thanks to everyone who came out last Wednesday night for my first Town Hall. Despite the torrential downpour, it was a lively and spirited event with over 100 residents attending. **Twenty panelists came from sixteen different city agencies. Over a hundred people submitted questions to my website ahead of time**, which my staff culled down to the twenty most commonly asked questions, and another dozen people asked questions during the open mic portion of the night. The West Side Rag posted a nice overview of issues we covered, and Emily Frost from DNA Info live tweeted the event.

## Crafts on Columbus

As you may know, Community Board 7 recently voted to not renew the permit for “Crafts on Columbus”, the crafts fair on Columbus from 77th to 81st that lasts for three weekends every May and October. Crafts on Columbus is an Upper West Side institution, and in a sea of street fairs selling funnel cakes and tube socks, Crafts on Columbus has long stood out as a place to support local artists. One of those artists, Upper West Sider Peter Salwan, has begun a petition to try to save the fair, and **I encourage you to sign on to the petition and show your support. I’ve asked Community Board 7 to reconsider this issue.**

## Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting is coming to the Upper West Side! Come to our first informational session and learn how you can be involved in allocating funds in your district. Thursday, June 12, 2014, 6:00pm - 8:00pm. West Side YMCA, 5 West 63rd Street. **RSVP to [district6pb@gmail.com](mailto:district6pb@gmail.com)**

## Meet My Staff

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## Stop By My Office

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Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-6pm | Open Friday, 10am-4pm

**Stay in the know and sign up for my newsletter at [helenrosenthal.com](http://helenrosenthal.com)!**