



## April Committee Meetings @ QCB13 Board Office

- Land Use 4.2.19 @ 7:30 pm
- Public Safety 4.3.19 @ 7:00 pm
- Transportation 4.8.19 @ 7:00 pm
- Youth, Education & Libraries 4.9.19 @ 7:30 pm
- Economic Development 4.10.19 @ 7:00 pm
- SSSNC 4.15.19 @ 10:30 am @ **SNAP — Creedmoor**
- Parks and Environment 4.16.19 @ 7:30 pm
- Health 4.18.19 @ 7:00 pm

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2019 @ 7:30 PM

Bellerose Assembly of God — 240-15 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

### AGENDA

1. Community Time
2. Meeting Called to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Elected Officials — Welcome
5. Chairman's Report — Clive Williams
6. NYPD Report — Deputy Inspector Neteis Gilbert, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct
7. Committee Reports
8. Roll Call
9. Presentation - Jamal Baksh, U.S. Census Bureau
10. Approve Minutes — February 2018
11. Public Speaking Time
12. Adjournment



**NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING, Monday, April 22, 2019**

**Merrick Academy Queens Public Charter School**

**136-25 218th Street, Queens, NY 11413**

**Enter through the Gymnasium on:**



## QCB 13 Public Safety Committee Report

**Fire Safety:** Le-Tis Williams, FDNY Community Affairs Queens Borough Manager, said that QCB 12 and 13 have very high fire fatality rates. Ms Williams said the FDNY is working with houses of worship, and the DOE.

Public Safety Vice Chair Bob Glover mentioned the Red Cross Sound-The-Alarm Program. Bob invited the Red Cross to the February meeting of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton. Already, six members have had free smoke and CO detectors installed in their homes. For an appointment, call 1-877-RED-CROS(S), or 1-877-733-2767. Jerry Wind stated that a member of Bellerose-Hillside civic had a CO detector installed due to a fire safety event. Soon thereafter, her heating system malfunctioned, resulting in elevated CO levels. She was alerted by the CO detector and escaped safely. Jerry reminded all to have their heating systems inspected regularly.

Other committee members recommended that the FDNY devote more resources to community outreach, and to come up with new ways to reach younger community members and those from different backgrounds. Some suggestions: canvass areas door-to-door, possibly accompanied by members of local community groups; develop short, interactive social media messages that may appeal to younger people.

**NYPD:** Sgt. Collins discussed how surveillance cameras continue to help to solve crimes. It would help if residents and businesses would register their cameras with the 105 Precinct. He cited a recent commercial burglary, after which the perps escaped through back yards of nearby homes. More residential camera footage would have been helpful.

Another scam: An email, designed to look like it comes from Citibank. A gift card of \$1,000 is promised if you click on a link. **DON'T DO IT!**

**Street Activity Permits:** It's time to get them in. Call Maxine at the office with any questions.

**Liquor Licenses:** Renewals approved for Grey Dolphin Restaurant, Cambria Heights, and El Patio Restaurant, Queens Village.

### Liquor Licenses



- Sohna Punjab Indian Restaurant (Renewal)  
248-03 Union Turnpike, **Bellerose**
- Delta Sky Club (Renewal)  
Terminal 4, **JFK International Airport**
- Live Life Marketing Inc. (New Application)  
229-15 Merrick Boulevard, **Laurelton**
- Sky Banquet Hall Inc. (New Application)  
231-03 Linden Boulevard, **Cambria Heights**
- Grey Dolphin Restaurant & Lounge  
(Renewal)  
223-20 Linden Boulevard, **Cambria Heights**
- El Patio Restaurant Corp. (Renewal)  
218-21 Jamaica Avenue, **Queens Village**

## PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE

**BSA Cal. No. 2019-38-BZ**

This application is filled to permit the operation of a physical culture establishment ("PCE") on the first floor of the existing one-story plus cellar building at the Premises in a M1-1 zoning district.



**Monday, April 22, 2019**  
**QCB13 General Board Meeting**  
**Merrick Academy**  
**136-25 218 Street**  
**Laurelton, NY 11413**



Queens Community Board 13  
219-41 Jamaica Avenue  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
718.464.9700  
Fax: 718.254.2739  
qcb13.org



Melinda Katz  
Borough President

Vicky Morales-Casella  
Director of  
Community Boards

Clive Williams  
Chair

Mark McMillan  
District Manager

#### DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – March 2019

##### Meetings Canceled:

Economic Development Committee  
Health Committee  
Land Use Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee

##### Events/Meetings Attended:

**February 25, 2019:** QCB 13 General Board Meeting at Bellerose Assembly of God.

**February 26, 2019:** Attend and was honored with the Civic Award at the Queens Borough President's African American Heritage Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall. **Board members** in attendance were **Verdell Boncoeur, Jacqueline Campbell, Robert Glover, Fay Hill, Curlene Nelson, Marcia O' Brien and Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick.**

**February 28, 2019:** Attend and participate in Healthy Community Planning Committee meeting at NYC Children's Center. In attendance were **Board members Bonnie Huie and Jerry Wind.**

**March 5, 2019:** Attend **City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's** State of the City Address at LaGuardia Community College.

**March 6, 2019:** Attend and participate in Public Safety Committee Meeting Chaired by **Michael O'Keeffe** and Vice Chaired by **Robert Glover.** Details will be shared in their report.

**March 12, 2019:** Attend City Council - Governmental Operations Committee Oversight Hearing at City Hall.

**March 14, 2019:** Attend and participate in the Belmont Redevelopment Community Advisory Committee at Martin de Pores School in Elmont.

**March 15, 2019:** Participate in Department of City Planning Focus Group on redesign of the District Needs Statement at DCP Headquarters, 120 Broadway.

**March 19, 2019:** Attend and participate in Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Chaired by **Fay Hill** and Vice Chaired by **Peter Richards.** Details will be shared in their report.

Speak at the Queens Village Civic Association monthly meeting.

**March 20, 2019: January 15, 2019:** Attend Queens Borough Cabinet Meeting. Topics:

- I. **Overview of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Queens Office** by Michael Dockett, Queens Borough Commissioner
- II. **Overview of NYC Department of Youth & Community Development** by Alexander Betancourt, Director of Interagency Coordination

Host District Service Cabinet Meeting at QCB 13 office.

**March 21, 2019:** Attend Eastern Queens Town Hall on Congestion Pricing hosted by State **Senators Leroy Comrie and John Liu** at Martin Van Buren High School. **Board members** present included **Corey Bearak, Tanya Cruz, Richard Hellenbrecht, Mohamood Ishmael and Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan  
District Manager



# Anxious about outliving your savings?

by Michael Shain  
Editor

After a certain age, scary is no longer a long walk in an empty parking garage or a knock on the door in the middle of the night.

Scary is the thought you may not have saved enough for retirement, that you may live longer than your money.

One of every four 65-year-olds alive today will live past 90, according to current statistics.

One in 10 will sail past the age of 95 with flying colors.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the average 65-year-old will live another 23.3 years.

How do you make sure you do not reach the end of the line before your money does?

The answer is simple really: Save more, spend less, work longer. Good night, everyone, get home safely, remember to tip your waiter.

But life — especially retired life — is rarely that simple.

Everything points to a simple reality. Most of us don't have a clue about retirement.

Baby boomers have a median nest egg of \$164,000. Millennials, naturally, have less but there's time for them to catch up.

A survey by T. Rowe Price released just a short while ago found that two of three retirees say they "have concerns about their assets lasting." That's a lot of anxious people.

If you are reading this article, chances are you have something set aside besides Social Security for the day your paycheck stops.

How can you be reasonably sure it's enough to last? And if you aren't sure it is, what can you do about it?

## 1. Plan, plan, plan

Unless you hit the lottery sometime after age 65, planning is the first way to save yourself.

"And, obviously, the more planning the better," said Kerry O'Shaunessy Montaigne, an estate lawyer in Rego Park.

First, saving is a kind of planning. The more you save, the easier everything else becomes.

Contributing the maximum amount — 15 percent of your salary before taxes — to an IRA or 401(k) account is probably the fastest way to build up savings for working people.

Next comes the paper and pencil part of a plan.

Go over your bills, what it costs to stay in your home and keep the lights and heat on every month. Nothing fancy.

Add the cost of food, health insurance and a car or monthly MetroCard. That's your base number for living.

Meanwhile, an estate lawyer can help



At a 100th birthday party at the Golden Age Club of Nativity Senior Center. Living longer is a blessing, to be sure, but people are growing more worried that their savings may no longer be enough to get them through the end of their lives comfortably.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SHAIN

you protect your house and other assets if you ever need to go into a nursing home.

Estate lawyers can help even if you haven't planned as well as you should have, Montaigne said.

In recent years, new rules permit retirees to "loan" their assets to their children — a so-called Medicaid Compliant Promissory Note. When the kids pay them back, the income is well below the cap and Medicaid kicks in sooner, she explained.

## 2. Investigate other investments besides stocks and bonds

A second house is a luxury, for sure.

But a place in the mountains or at the beach — or even around the corner — can be an investment that pays off.

Nothing appreciates like real estate.

Investing in the education and equipment required for a retirement job — pet grooming, computer repair, pest

exterminating, the kind of work that can be done part-time and on your own schedule — can make a big difference.

P.S. Avoid investing in collectibles — baseball cards, art, jewelry — unless you are a pro at it to begin with. The market for goods such as these fluctuates too much to be a reliable hedge, say the experts.

## 3. Lay down a floor for yourself

What can you count on coming in every month, rain or shine?

This is why Social Security was created

back in the 1930s. If you worked all your life, you deserve something after you stop.

Find out what you can expect from Social Security if you apply for full benefits at age 66 or wait until age 70, when benefits will be higher.

In most cases, that won't be enough to cover your rock-bottom needs (see **1. Plan**).

Are you getting a company-sponsored pension? If so, add both together and see if they meet your monthly nut.

If not, you may have to think about purchasing an annuity. For a lump sum payment now, a bank or insurance company agrees to pay you an agreed-upon amount every month for the rest of your life.

An annuity is basically a bet between you and an insurance company or bank.

If you die soon after retiring, the bank wins. If you zoom past age 90, the bank is on the hook to pay you more than you gave it originally. You win.

P.S. Ask about ways to hedge your bet. Some companies will agree, if you die sooner rather than later, to refund your heirs the unused portion of your original investment. It costs a few dollars a month but it may be worth it.

And you don't have to pay an annuity all at once. It can be done in payments over time.

Some financial companies have started offering something called a personal pension — a substitute for company pensions that have disappeared in the last few decades.

For a contribution today, the company agrees to give you a pension payment sometime in the future.

Unlike annuities with a hard-and-fast contribution requirement, a personal-pension payout simply goes up every time you contribute, no pressure.

## 4. Reduce debt before retiring

There are two ways to get rich: 1.) bring in a lot of money and 2.) spend very little.

Most people obsess over the first way and forget about the second.

A little-appreciated way to make sure you don't outlive your retirement strategy is to reduce debt.

Mortgages, car loans and credit cards are for young people who have a paycheck coming in every week. Some can afford to drive a car beyond their means and live in a house that's bigger than they may need. That's because they have the promise of money coming in every week.

Retirement means shedding debt obligations as much as possible.

Eliminating debt in the months and years before you retire may require some sacrifice and maybe a lifestyle change — moving to another city, dividing a house and renting out a portion, dumping the lease on an expensive car and buying a used car. For cash.

The T. Rowe Price survey found that 72 percent of retirees pay their credit card balances in full when due. Among working people, the rate is 39 percent, the survey found.

Retirees find out quickly that the peace of mind that comes when debts are retired is worth it.

## 5. Anxiety is good

Sudipto Banerjee, a statistician for the Employee Benefit Research Institute, did research on how retirees actually use their money.

He discovered that the fear of outliving retirement money is so strong that people actually cut back more than necessary.

On average, a person with a nest egg of less than \$500,000 spends just about a quarter of it during the first 20 years of retirement, he found.

The cost of healthcare and nursing homes is the No. 1 fear of retirees.

But the ERBI found that less than one in ten people are hit with nursing home costs that exceed \$87,000. And the median out-of-pocket cost for healthcare for people over 70 was about \$2,000 a year.

"I have a lot of clients who are very well off financially and live in trailers in Florida," financial planner Brett Anderson told Reuters last year. "They are quiet millionaires."

No matter how much planning people did — or failed to do — for retirement, the research seems to show that retirees modify their behavior enough to stave off disaster. At all income levels, retirement turns everyone into a fiscal conservative. At least with their own money, it found.

The evidence is so strong, one financial expert called the fear of outliving your money a flatout "myth."

But better safe than sorry.

**One in every four  
65-year-olds alive  
today will live past  
90. One in 10 will  
sail past 95 with  
flying colors.**



# SE Queens getting a flood of flood relief

## A conversation in Gracie Mansion reverses decades of city neglect

by Michael Gannon  
Editor

Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) remembers the first time he spoke with the city's then-brand new mayor, Bill de Blasio, about flooding in Southeast Queens.

"I'll never forget!" Richards said in a recent interview. "It was at Gracie Mansion, a reception for the Council. We were there to enjoy ourselves. He said 'Hello, Councilman.' I said hello.

"Then I said 'I need money for flood control.'"

And the mayor, according to Richards, has delivered. What the councilman hoped would be an investment of \$1 billion over 10 years now is closer to \$2 billion not quite halfway through de Blasio's original commitment for new water mains, sewer lines, storm drains and storm sewers.

"Now, anywhere I drive I can see work being done. And not just in my district but Daneek's and Adrienne's," he said, referring to fellow Council members Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) and Adrienne Adams (D-Jamaica).

While saying there are still many needs to be addressed at the city and state levels, Richards' comments backed up a Feb. 25 presentation at Community Board 13 given



Construction workers on Francis Lewis Boulevard continue project QED-976 — installation of a trunk water main and a sewer line up Francis Lewis and along 90th Avenue in Queens Village. The \$48 million project is scheduled to be completed in summer 2020. PHOTO BY MICHAEL GANNON

by Maria Centeno, executive director of the office of Community Outreach and Notification for the city's Department of Design and Construction.

The presentation, along with supplemental documents provided by the agency, outlined 10 completed projects, 11 under construction

and 22 at various points in the design phase in Community Districts 12 and 13.

A total of approximately 55 projects are being planned within an area bounded by the Van Wyck Expressway to the west, John F. Kennedy International Airport to the south, the Nassau County border in the east,

and 22 at various points in the design phase in Community Districts 12 and 13.

Barbara Brown, president of the Eastern Queens Association, an umbrella organization for numerous civic groups, acknowledged that some residents and civic leaders have talked to her about the disruption caused when streets must be dug up — sometimes multiple times before new final paving is put in place.

"But people would rather have that than not," Brown told the Chronicle three weeks ago, given the decades some have waited for flood control measures.

Miller said his constituents' third reaction was underscored at the JFK ribbon-cutting last week.

"You heard them today talking about all the [minority and women-owned] and community businesses that have worked on this center," he said. "But the sewers are about a \$1.7 billion project and of about \$900 million that's been spent so far, we haven't seen that. We're making outside companies rich."

and as far north in some places as the Grand Central Parkway.

But it was a long time coming in Southeast Queens.

Much of the area sits above a high water table, with naturally occurring groundwater close to the surface. Dating back to the 1950s and possibly earlier, housing developments sprang up in places like Rosedale, St. Albans, Addisleigh Park and sections of Jamaica, Laurelton and other neighborhoods. Many houses and housing developments were built before modern environmental regulations existed, much less were put in place.

Speaking at a community forum in 2014 officials with the city's Department of Environmental Protection said unskilled or unscrupulous developers and builders might do things like cover over brooks and streams to build on top of them, but leaving the water running not far below the surface.

Then in 1996 the city purchased the old Jamaica Water Supply Co., which some estimates say pumped 60 million gallons of water per day from the ground.

In 1997 the city stopped pumping the water out. The water table in some sections of Southeast Queens has risen more than 35 feet in the interim, and the city has

repeatedly declined to restart the pumps.

When she was chairwoman of Community Board 12 in 2015, Adams said residential flooding from even the smallest of storms could be attributable to "decades of wilful neglect by responsible city agencies with respect to flooding in Southeast Queens ..."

Yvonne Reddick, district manager of CB 12, told the Chronicle that she has seen the difference when told of Richards' conversion with de Blasio in 2014.

"I think the mayor has been keeping his promise," she said.

Richards said there is still a need for ongoing consultation with the DDC, DEP, Department of Transportation and the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

"There are still some places with issues, like parts of Rosedale," Richards said. "York College [in Jamaica] is pumping a million gallons of water out of its basements every day. And we need to keep talking to the DEC about things we may not be able to do ourselves, like pumping out the groundwater."

Miller, speaking with the Chronicle last Friday at the ribbon cutting for the JFK Redevelopment Community Information Center [see separate story in some editions or online at qchorn.com] said the progress has been noticeable.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GANNON

### New Queens Parks Commissioner Dockett attends QCB13 Parks and Environment Committee meeting.



## Thanks, guys!

The Federated Blocks of Laurelton showed its appreciation for the community at its monthly meeting on March 7.

At top, Brandon Phillips, left, owner of a local The UPS Store, was given an award of appreciation by Federated Blocks President Robert Glover for his support of Laurelton, including his putting in more than 1,000 volunteer hours on various projects.

Above, Neighborhood Coordination Offi-

cers Lonell Patrick, second from left, and Christopher Kissane, second from right, both with the 105th Precinct, were feted for their assistance with the annual Laurelton Christmas tree lighting late last year. They were joined by Deputy Inspector Neteis Gilbert, left, commanding officer of the 105th Precinct, Glover and Assistant Chief David Barrere, commanding officer of Patrol Borough Queens South.



# Tips to improve your financial health in 2019

## Healthy credit for the new year: What you need to know

It's always a good time to reassess financial goals and work toward improving your overall financial health. No matter what your financial goals may be, having the right information and tools in place is key to getting you on track to take control of your credit.

Taking the first step towards financial wellness can provide a sense of empowerment as you get rid of everyday financial stressors, which is why many see a positive connection between financial control and self-perception.

Though increasing your credit score might seem daunting, following these healthy credit behaviors can help you make positive changes to your financial health and even your personal well-being.

**• Understand your credit:** When starting on your journey to better financial health, begin by familiarizing yourself with your current credit standing, as well as understanding what factors may be negatively impacting your credit score.

A great place to start is with your Annual Credit Report, which provides one free credit report each year from all three nationwide credit reporting agencies. The information in these reports directly impacts credit scores, so it's important to carefully review for any factors that could cause your score to be lower than it should be.

**• Review your report and take action:** While assessing your credit report, carefully review for any inaccuracies or problem areas that may negatively affect your credit score.

For instance, high accumulations of debt such as maxed out credit cards and unpaid bills will likely be reflected in your credit report. Unpaid collections are also commonly reported delin-

quencies that can cause a big hit, even when as low as \$100 or less.

Prioritize addressing these smaller problem areas first before they get worse. Inaccurate information caused by identity theft can also lower your credit score and should be disputed online.

**• Create a plan for better credit:** After resolving any outstanding issues identified while reviewing your credit report, create a plan towards improving your financial health, which should include:

1) **On-time payments:** Paying your bills on time and in full each month is key as it builds a positive history of on-time payments and responsible credit use.

2) **Credit utilization:** It is recommended to maintain a low credit utilization ratio, that is, how much of your available credit you're using at any given time. It is recommended that you use no more than 30 percent of the available credit, otherwise, your score could be suffering.

3) **Evaluate your credit cards:** Before opening or closing any credit cards, do your research on the different types of credit cards and the benefits they have. Do one or more of your cards have an annual fee that you could live without?

Strategize which cards you use regularly and keep daily spending concentrated to one or two cards total. However, don't close an old account just because you aren't using it. Longstanding credit accounts are vital for building credit as this demonstrates a responsible credit history.

**• Remain vigilant about credit monitoring and protection:** Once you're in control of your credit, the next step is to be diligent about monitoring your credit and cautious about your per-



sonal information, which includes fraud protection. Fraudsters may take out loans, lines of credit, or rent apartments in your name, which can negatively affect your credit if it results in a non-payment. If you think your information has been compromised, you can protect your credit by freezing

it at all three credit reporting agencies.

With TransUnion, you can simply freeze and unfreeze your credit with the touch of a button through the myTransUnion app or at [transunion.com](http://transunion.com).

Understanding and managing personal information is vital to achieving goals

such as owning a home, financing your education or having the convenience of credit cards for everyday purchases. With responsible financial behaviors, discipline and consistency, you'll be on your way to improving your credit, and in turn, feeling more confident about your financial health.

# REGISTER TO VOTE



Forms available in  
the Board Office  
219-41 Jamaica Avenue





# Do You REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE?

by Louise Manigault

**A**t this moment, you are probably in the midst of multi-tasking. You are taking a quick minute to read this article while you are working on one or more projects. People are calling you to ask for favors. The job is putting pressure on you. Your friends and family need things from you. They want you to listen to their problems and respond right now. You have to go places that take time away from something you wanted to do for yourself. You are constantly ignoring your needs and wants to take care of others. The television news and the newsfeed on your computer constantly fill your mind with the worse moments in humanity. You wonder why time is going by so quickly. There are never enough hours in the day to take care of everything. By the end of each week, you are not satisfied because you still have many things to do. Life has become a series of beat-the-clock days.

It seems that you work all the time. Even if you are not at work, you are focused on what was left undone and what has to be done the next day. You are being paid for full time work, but you are working double the time required because you are trying to keep ahead of the work load. Think about your schedule. You work even when you are sick. You neglect to take sick days even though you are entitled to them. You seldom take all of your vacation time. Even when you, finally, take

a vacation, you don't get away for any real relaxation. You don't want to leave town in case someone needs you.

You have become so inundated and overwhelmed by the needs of others, that you lose sight of who you are or who you used to be. Obligations with family consume all of your free time. You don't have an opportunity to clear your head or do something nice just for you. If someone asks you what you do for fun, you can't think of an answer. You feel stressed and depressed most of the time because you don't understand what has happened to your life.

It's time to shift the focus to you. As you begin to remember who you are, think about what you want out of life. Think about how your plans were put on hold because you were inundated with the challenges and frustrations brought on by the people who are around you. Ask yourself a few questions. What will fulfill you and bring joy and satisfaction to your life? What will motivate you each day and bring back the excitement you used to experience? What adjustments can you make right now to move toward change? If your life has been consumed by outside forces, your

mind may be resistant to searching inward.

What is the path to remembering who you are? There are a few things you can do. First, learn to take some time to be with yourself. You have probably forgotten a lot of the things that you used to enjoy. You need time to relax, reflect and meditate. This is beneficial to your emotional health. Second, begin to understand that the work in your inbox can get done during the work day. You don't have to bring it home to consume the hours that you need to relax. Third, designate a time when you will stay away from emails, voicemail and text messages. Fourth, change your routines. We, sometimes, do the same thing day in and day out. We travel the same route to work. We shop at the

same stores. Shake up your routine. Finally, mark one day on your calendar each week that will be devoted to you -- no appointments, no work, no favors or meetings. Design the day just for you. You will be happier and more productive when you set and stick to these boundaries. You will begin living a life that honors who you are.

Read more of my articles and meditations on [www.universalfaithministries.com](http://www.universalfaithministries.com)

*It's time to shift the focus to you. As you begin to remember who you are, think about what you want out of life.*

## New map shows where to find fresh produce in boro

BY BILL PARRY

Knowing that fresh produce can be hard to find in many underserved neighborhoods, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, the acting public advocate, created an interactive Farm-To-City Food map of the five boroughs, highlighting the importance of access to fresh and healthy food for all New Yorkers.

In Queens, the map shows 17 Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), 20 farmers markets, two food boxes and four fresh pantry projects.

CSAs are partnerships between a farm and a community that allow neighbors to invest in the farm at the beginning of the growing season when farms need support the most, in exchange for weekly distribution of the farms' produce from June to November. Food Box programs aggregate produce from

participating farms and enable under-served communities to purchase a box of fresh, healthy, primarily regionally-grown produce.

Food pantries shown on the map are part of GrowNYC's Fresh Pantry Project. These pantries accept donations of fresh local produce from New York area growers. Farmers' markets are diverse and may be run by a large, centrally-managed network or by a single community organization, garden group, or impassioned neighbors running their own community-run market.

"Access to fresh, healthy food should be a human right for everyone living in New York City," Johnson said. "Many New Yorkers don't know where to find fresh food options even if they are nearby, but the good news is that there are several community-based programs that make fresh food



Council Speaker Corey Johnson creates and interactive map showing where fresh produce can be found in underserved areas of the five boroughs.

Courtesy of Johnson's office

affordable. With this map, we are highlighting the work of amazing organizations like GrowNYC, Just Food, and Harvest Home, promoting healthy lifestyles for all New Yorkers, and highlighting the

need to continue fighting until fresh, healthy food is affordable and accessible for everyone."

The new interactive map allows viewers to find and learn more about all 307 locations, including payment programs

that help make fruits and vegetables and other healthy options more affordable, making it a valuable resource for anyone in search of fresh, healthy food in New York City. The map is available on the acting public advocate's website.

"The New York City Council's Farm-to-City Food Map is an empowering tool that will help people throughout the City eat fresh, healthy, and local," GrowNYC President, Marcel Van Ooyen said. "GrowNYC's mission is to build linkages between local farms and New York City communities. This online tool will make it easier for New Yorkers to take full advantage of resources such as Greenmarket, Youthmarket, and Fresh Food Box that support regional farm economies, provide access to delicious and healthy foods, and fully utilize nutrition assistance programs such as SNAP and FMNP."



# Celebrating Women During Women's History Month

## She Built NYC Honors Five Trailblazing Women With Statues Around City

She Built NYC is commissioning statues of five trailblazing women whose extraordinary contributions forever changed New York City.

Statues of Rep. **Shirley Chisholm**, **Billie Holiday**, **Elizabeth Jennings Graham**, **Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trías**, and **Katherine Walker** will be installed throughout the city's five boroughs. They are the result of She Built NYC, a campaign launched to honor women who have shaped New York City while addressing the absence of female statues in our public spaces.

Just five out of 150 statues in New York currently depict women.

She Built NYC aims to address the gap by ensuring that half of the city's monuments depict women or subjects related to women's history.

The first group of She Built NYC statues were selected through an open call that drew over 2,000 nominations from the public.



### QUEENS

Billie Holiday (born Eleanora Fagan Gough, 1915-1959) is among the world's preeminent jazz singers. Her career elevated New York's 'swing sing' jazz scene to international prominence while challenging racial barriers. One of the first black women to sing with a white orchestra, Holiday struck out on her own with "Strange Fruit," a protest song about lynching. Her career was recognized with four posthumous Grammy Awards and induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Holiday's statue will be placed near Queens Borough Hall.

### BRONX

Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trías (1929-2001) was a pioneer in pediatrics and public health who was dedicated to issues related to reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS care and prevention. As a women's rights advocate, she fought to end enforced sterilization and advocated for neonatal care for underserved people. She served as medical director of NY State Department of Health's AIDS Institute and was the first Latina director of the American Public Health Association. In 2001, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Citizens Medal. Rodriguez Trías's statue will be erected at St. Mary's Park in the Bronx.



### BROOKLYN

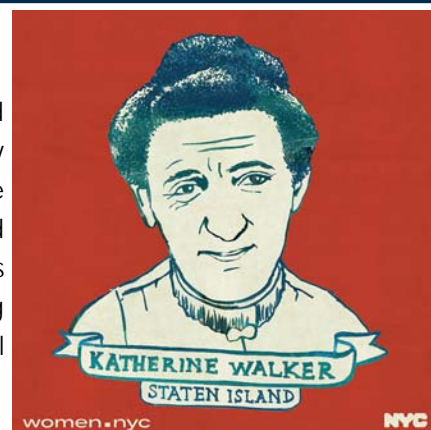
Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) was a political pioneer; she became the first black woman elected to Congress, where she represented New York's 12th Congressional District for seven terms (1969 to 1983). In 1972, she made history again by becoming the first black woman to run for the presidential nomination of a major party. With her trademark slogan, "unbought and unbossed," Chisholm paved the way for women of all backgrounds to run for public office. Her statue is being erected at the entrance of Prospect Park in Brooklyn.





## STATEN ISLAND

Katherine Walker (1838-1941), the keeper of Robbins Reef Lighthouse, is credited with saving the lives of at least 50 people and guiding countless vessels to safety through Kill Van Kull, the channel between Staten Island and Bayonne, NJ. She raised two children at the lighthouse, rowing them back and forth to attend school in Staten Island. Her story sheds light on women working in the city's marine industry as well as her contributions to the infrastructure of the shipping industry, which was critical to the city's economy for centuries. Walker's statue will be erected at Staten Island Ferry Landing.



## MANHATTAN

Elizabeth Jennings Graham (1827-1901) challenged racial segregation well before the Civil Rights Movement when, on July 16, 1854, she boarded a streetcar that prohibited black passengers and refused to leave until forcibly removed by the police. Graham later won \$225 in damages after successfully suing the Third Avenue Railroad Company, the conductor, and the streetcar driver. Her landmark case was the first step toward ending transit segregation in the City. Graham's monument will be erected next to Grand Central Station.



To see the full list of women publically nominated to be coimmisioned  
visit [women.nyc/she-built-nyc/](https://women.nyc/she-built-nyc/)

### What comes next? What is the process for selecting future She Built NYC monuments?

Future monuments — whether publicly funded, privately funded, or a combination — will be selected from the list of women and women-related events that were nominated by the public. The City will work with relevant City agencies to pair potential subjects with available and viable sites.

As funding is made available, these pairings will be brought to the She Built NYC agency advisory board, consisting of representatives from relevant City agencies, offices and entities. When deciding upon future monuments, the advisory board will consider the public nominations list, including trends in the data; borough and subject diversity; site availability and appropriateness; and existing monuments within the City's collection.

### What will happen with the list of public nominations going forward? Is there a chance to add to the list?

Public nominations will serve as the "database" from which future monuments will be selected. Any She Built NYC monument must be on that list. We will open up the nomination form at least once every five years so that new names can be added. This means the form will open again on or before June 2020.

### What if I want to donate but cannot fund a full monument?

The City will make available opportunities for private donors to contribute to existing monument endowment funds or monument projects already underway. If you are interested in donating, please contact [shebuilt@women.nyc](mailto:shebuilt@women.nyc).



## kids &amp; education

## More city students taking AP exams than ever before: Mayor

BY STEPHEN LEPORE

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@QNS

New York City students took part in and passed advanced placement exams at a record rate in 2018, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced in Elmhurst on Tuesday.

A total of 55,011 young people took an AP Exam in 2018, up 11.4 percent from 49,364 in 2017. The number of students that passed at least one exam in 2018 was up 10.7 percent. Every borough saw an increase in students both taking and succeeding at the exams, which are a part of Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza's "AP For All" initiative. All ethnic groups also saw increases.

The chancellor and mayor made the announcement Tuesday at Civic Leadership Academy, which has tripled the number of AP courses it offers through the AP for All initiative, alongside state Senator Jessica Ramos and Councilman Daniel Dromm.

"For too long, the city wasn't doing its part to provide access to Advanced Placement programs, sending a message to students that they weren't college material," said de Blasio. "We came into office to shake things up and remind all students of their potential. Our AP for All programs are moving mountains for students in every neighborhood with a record number



Photo courtesy of Mayor's office

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza visited the Civic Leadership Academy in Elmhurst on Feb. 26.

of students testing and passing AP courses and allowing more bright young minds to earn college credit for their futures."

"AP for All is working," added Carranza. "With our Equity and Excellence for All agenda, we are raising expectations, strengthening instruction, and creating a college-going culture among both our students and our educators, and we're seeing the impact not only in AP results but in graduation and college enrollment rates."

The program seeks to increase participation and performance at AP exams with a particular focus on black and Hispanic students, as part of the city's "Equity and Excellence for All" agenda. The city supported new AP classes at 152 schools during the 2017-18 school year, with the initiative reaching 252 schools. The goal is for students at all high schools in New York City to have access to at least five AP classes.

Progress has been shown since the pro-

gram began, with the number of students taking AP exams rose 92.1 percent since the initiative launched in 2016. The number of students passing has gone up 64.9 percent. The diversity standards have also raised: in 2018, 19.4 percent Hispanic and 7.1 percent more black students took at least one AP exam than in 2017. Since 2013, Hispanic participation has risen 58.7 percent and black student participation is up 60 percent.

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## QUEENS CHAMBER NEWS &amp; EVENTS

## EXPERTS DISCUSS OPPORTUNITY ZONES

BY BENJAMIN FANG

When the Trump administration passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017, lawmakers included in the legislation a new program meant to spur investments in low-income areas.

Known as Opportunity Zones, the program incentivizes investors to invest any type of capital gain into qualified projects in a census tract with an individual poverty rate of at least 20 percent. In exchange, investors can receive certain tax benefits.

On February 28, the Queens Chamber of Commerce assembled a panel of real estate experts at SpringHill Suites by Marriott New York in East Elmhurst to discuss the implications of the program.

According to Brad Polizzano, senior manager at Baker Tilly, the tax benefit depends on how long investors hold their investment in the opportunity zone.

Investors can receive a temporary deferral of tax on capital gains

if they reinvest the funds into a qualified Opportunity Fund within 180 days of the sale. The deferral on that capital gain ends on December 31, 2026.

If the investment in the project is held for five years, 10 percent of the original capital gain is eliminated. If the investor holds onto it for seven years, 15 percent of the gain is eliminated.

The ultimate goal, however, is for investors to keep their investments for at least 10 years. When that happens, any appreciation on the capital gain is "fully tax free," Polizzano said.

Rubin Isak, partner at Goldenwood Property Advisors, said the program opens up investment opportunities for those who don't already own real estate.

"It just opens it up to a whole slew of new investment strategies," he said.

New York State recommended 514 census tracts to be designated as Opportunity Zones, including 63 in Queens alone. Those areas

include parts of Astoria and Long Island City, Flushing, Jamaica, Far Rockaway and the communities surrounding JFK Airport.

"Willets Point is not in it," noted Sean Crowley, a partner at Davidoff Hatcher & Citron LLP. "You would think it is."

Despite being rolled out less than a year ago, investors don't have much time to invest in an Opportunity Fund. They have until just the end of 2019 to meet the seven-year holding period to receive the 15 percent reduction.

The experts also expressed hesitation on moving forward until the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues more guidance. According to Crowley, more details are expected to come out in March.

"There's a lot of pause to jump in right now because the IRS hasn't finalized the regulations," Polizzano said.

For example, there are penalties involved in the legislation, but that hasn't been clarified yet.

Isak said he has seen at least three significant sales in Opportunity Zones so far, all of them in Long Island City. But he noted that the western Queens neighborhood has seen an "uptrend" anyway, with or without the program.

"No real significant impact yet," he said.

The panelists said investment decisions should be made based on the real estate deal first, and the tax consequences second.

"Developers will still build their buildings if they make sense," Isak said.

Crowley said many Queens elected officials, including Congress members Gregory Meeks, Carolyn Maloney and Hakeem Jeffries, need to hear constituents' thoughts on enhancing the program. In particular, panelists said they federal government should move the dates back.

"If you have some ideas, now is the time to raise them," Crowley said, "especially about time flexibility issues."



# City urges parents to run for Ed Councils

The 2019 Community and Citywide Education Council election cycle is underway, and parents are urged to run as part of the city's effort to empower and elevate the voice of parent leaders, which includes their ongoing five-borough parent forum tour.

"I'm calling on all parents to run for an Education Council seat and make a difference for our children, regardless of the language they speak or what zip code or even country they are from," said Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza.

Education Councils are a critical way for parents and families to get involved and help shape their school communities. Parents can go online to learn more about the structure and roles of the Education Councils.

The website includes information on eligibility guidelines, key dates, and frequently asked questions. Applications can be submitted online starting tomorrow through March 6. All Education Council resources online are available in ten languages.

The mayor and chancellor recently embarked on a five-borough parent empowerment tour to hear first-hand from elected and appointed parent leaders about their priorities for the school system. Education Council members were all invited to attend to share ideas and ask questions, along with PA/PTA board members.

Community and Citywide Education Council elections take place every two years. There are 36 Councils across the City, which are required by state law and Chancellor's regulations, including 32 Community Education Councils,

Citywide Council on High Schools, Citywide Council on English Language Learners, Citywide Council on Special Education, and Citywide Council for District 75.

The 32 CECs are responsible for approving school zoning lines, holding hearings on the capital plan, and providing input on instructional and policy issues. Citywide Councils advise on and advocate for school policy affecting the specific needs of the students they represent.

Each applicant for a CEC position must be a parent of a student enrolled in a district elementary or middle school, while applicants for the Citywide Council on

High Schools must have a child in high school.

Eligible applicants for the other three Citywide Councils must have a student receiving the respective services and programs. Parents serve two-year terms.

At the recommendation of parent leaders, there will be conferences in all five boroughs for all candidates between March 18 and 21 to learn more about the roles. Interpretation services will be available at all Education Council election events.

Between March 25 and May 1, Presidents' Councils will host forums for candidates to engage with the selectors who will be voting

online from May 2 through May 14.

On May 21, the results will be posted online. The Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) will organize an all-day orientation for the newly elected Education Council members, as well as ongoing technical trainings on their roles and responsibilities and leadership development programs.

"Parents know our education system the best," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. They see first-hand what's working and what isn't and nobody's perspective is more important. When it comes to representation on local educational councils, run, parents, run!"

## Pols push sex harass law

State Senator Andrew Gounardes of Brooklyn and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic of Fresh Meadows) have introduced legislation that would strengthen the current laws for victims of sexual harassment, regardless of the level of pervasiveness or severity of the alleged conduct.

The new legislation would clarify and define what constitutes sexual harassment.

"The flawed 'severe or pervasive' standard of sexual harassment has arbitrarily denied justice for far too long," said Nily Rozic. "As we work to strengthen our sexual harassment laws, the first step is to ensure that standards set are up to date and well defined."

According to the Sexual Ha-

arrassment Working Group the standard results in a high level of workplace abuse. NYC has had improved worker protections for years, but the rest of the state has failed to keep pace.

"A system that fails to find behavior such as sexual gestures, touching, and 'grinding' against an employee's body as failing to rise to the level of offensive and actionable behavior is in critical need of reform," said Gounardes. "By lowering this impossibly high burden of proof, we are unequivocally defining what constitutes harassment and finally fighting back against a legal framework that has protected perpetrators and denied survivors justice for far too long."



# Comrie replaces Gianaris on PACB

## State senator sees new role as chance to change Belmont Park development plans

BY BILL PARRY

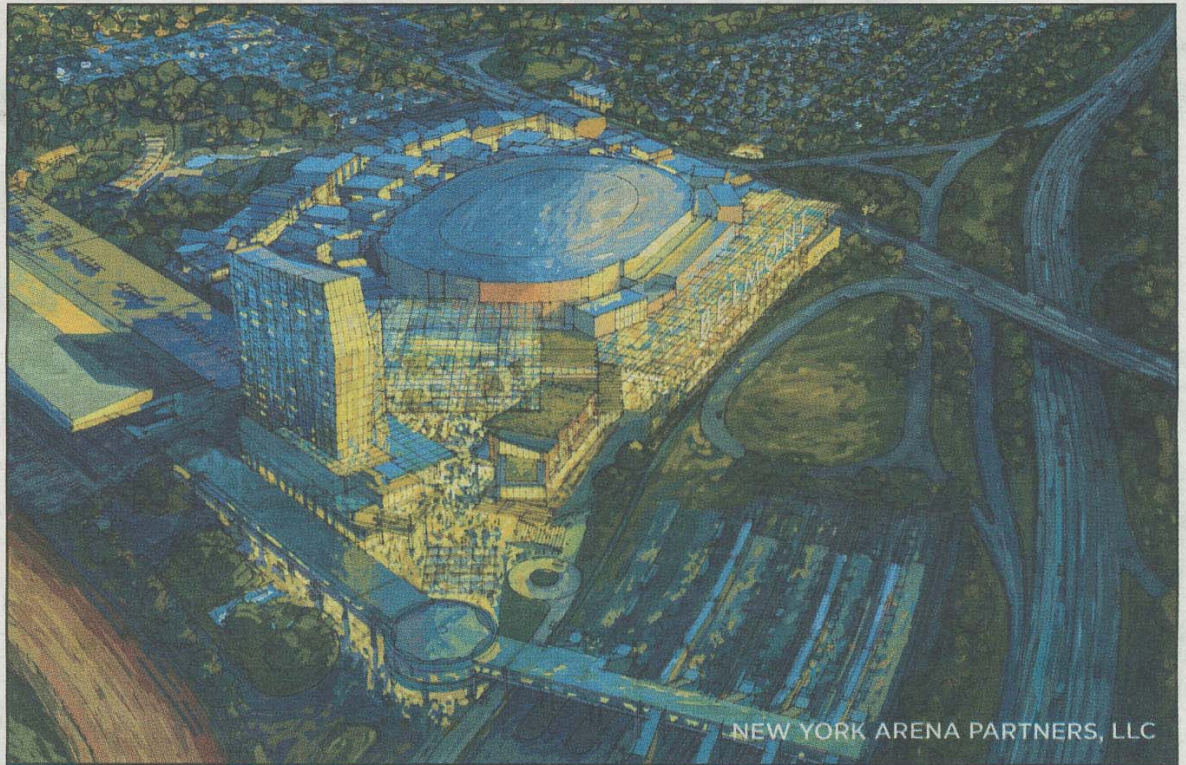
Is the \$1.18 billion Belmont Park redevelopment plan in trouble now that state Sen. Leroy Comrie has replaced his colleague Michael Gianaris as the nominee to the Public Authorities Control Board? Not necessarily, said Comrie, whose district encompasses a section of the park.

"I'm not critical of the plan but I am hopeful there are some issues that can be resolved," Comrie said. "I am honored that the leader has recommended me and I hope I can represent our conference well, if the Governor accepts the recommendation."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins withdrew Gianaris' name from nomination to the three-member panel — which could have given the Amazon opponent partial veto power over the deal — just over a week after e-commerce giant walked away from its plan to build an HQ2 campus in Long Island City, and its promise to create 25,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo fumed that the Amazon rejection was the "greatest tragedy" he saw during his time in government during an interview Friday in which he blamed Gianaris by name for leading the opposition to the project. A day later, Comrie's name was put forward by Stewart-Cousins in a letter to Cuomo.

"Through comments you have made to others in public meetings and interviews it has become clear that you do not intend to confirm this appointment to the PACB," Stewart-Cousins wrote. "To ensure the Senate Majority is properly represented, I hereby formally recommend Senator



State Sen. Leroy Comrie said he has "considerable concerns about traffic and transportation issues" related to the Belmont Park redevelopment project that would include a 19,000-seat hockey arena for the New York Islanders. Courtesy of New York Partners, LLC

Leroy Comrie as the Senate representative on the Public Authorities Control Board."

Cuomo spokesman Rich Azzopardi responded in a tweet saying, "Great, but it's a day late and \$27 billion short," implying the deal, and the projected \$27 billion in city and state tax revenues over 25 years, could have been saved if she had withdrawn Gianaris's name earlier.

In a telephone interview Tuesday from Albany, Comrie seemed surprised at speculation that he was opposed to the Belmont Park redevelopment project that would include a 19,000-seat hockey arena for the New

York Islanders, a 250-room hotel and a 435,000 square foot retail complex adjacent to the racetrack's grandstand.

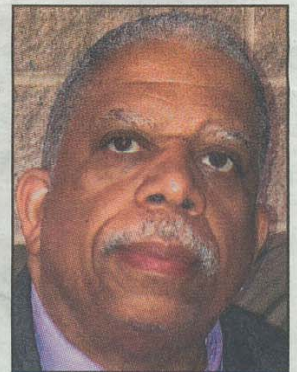
"I applaud the concept of the project," Comrie said. "I do have considerable concerns about traffic and transportation issues but I'm very positive things can be worked out."

Comrie has insisted publicly that any final project must include a full-service Long Island Rail Road station instead of limited service at the current facility, with the cost of the new station passed on to the developer. He has also called for a year-round Park and Ride for commuters

at the 6,000 space parking lot, as well as a significant expansion of the Cross Island Expressway.

"I am well aware that Elmont has not had any development programs for years and they are very supportive of this project, but I am also aware that on the western edge of Belmont Park, in my neighborhoods of Cambria Heights and Queens Village traffic congestion and a full service LIRR station are very serious issues."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@schnepsmedia.com](mailto:bparry@schnepsmedia.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4538.



State Sen. Leroy Comrie has replaced state Sen. Michael Gianaris as the nominee to the Public Authorities Control Board. File Photo

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2 TIMESLEDGER, MARCH 1-7, 2019



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# Push for state to fund early voting programs

BY BENJAMIN FANG

bfang@queensledger.com

With the state budget due on April 1, a coalition of good government groups and community organizations is calling for changes to make voting easier.

On Friday, State Senator Jessica Ramos joined members of the Let NY Vote coalition, including Common Cause, Chhaya CDC and the New York Civil Liberties Union, to urge Governor Andrew Cuomo to include funding for early voting in the budget.

"There's a reason why the State Senate made voter reform our very first signature package of legislation," Ramos said.

Along with early voting and same-day registration, lawmakers passed electronic poll books, all reforms that advocates say will make a

difference.

Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause New York, said it was "very disappointing" that the governor did not include funding for early voting in his executive budget.

She called on the Assembly and State Senate, both of which passed election reforms, to include it in their one-house budgets.

"Democracy needs participation," Lerner said.

According to Ramos, many of her Jackson Heights neighbors encountered issues with their names not listed in poll books during last Tuesdays' public advocate special election. One woman was "turned away" at PS 149.

Luckily, Ramos said, the neighbor was a "triple-prime voter" who knew to call the Board of Elections and vote by affidavit.

"Of course, not everybody is aware of what you should do if you encounter issues in voting," Ramos said. "We want to make the process easier."

At the same event, the coalition also denounced lowering the lobbying registration threshold from \$5,000 to \$500, which they called the "activist tax."

Jagpreet Singh, lead organizer for the housing group Chhaya, said community organizations don't necessarily have the resources to comply with lobbying disclosure reporting.

One day of lobbying for these groups, which could involve sending a bus up to Albany, buying snacks or sending postcards, already cost upwards of \$500.

"But to hire a person to do seven filings annually that involve tracking and reporting compensation,

hours spent lobbying, persons lobbied, bills, executive orders and so on is burdensome to our communities," Singh said.

"The 'activist tax' makes absolutely no sense," Lerner added. "We really want to see it removed."

When asked why the governor would propose this, Ramos responded that Cuomo saw not only the activism invoked by Amazon, but also the activation of voters in the last state election.

"Our neighbors are more engaged in politics than ever before," she said. "That can be something that is very dangerous to elected officials who don't like to spend time with the average citizen."

"We're talking about a governor who's never held a town hall," Ramos added. "We're talking about a governor who rarely walks the streets of New York."

# Addabbo pushes for sports betting to close budget gap

BY MARK HALLUM

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@QNS

Although the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a nationwide ban on sports betting in May 2018, New York state has yet to pass its own legislation regulating this activity.

One Queens elected official says could not only drain the coffers of organized crime operations but could close a \$2.3 billion gap in the budget.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo was optimistic about the potential of the state gaining in tax revenue to fund education, but now he sees the uses of those funds going toward the shortfall in the 2020 executive budget, in addition to the \$3 billion deficit expected by Gov. Andrew Cuomo starting next year.

"Now more than ever it makes sense to legalize sports betting to help fund essential programs by bringing in additional revenue. It offers great potential for increasing revenue without placing the burden on taxpayers. It creates new jobs, and adds crucial funding support for education in New York. We should act now to create new wagering opportunities, including mobile and online betting, to help close the gap," Addabbo said. "There



Photo via Flickr/Creative Commons

are many economic advantages for the state in legalizing sports wagering including tax revenue from betting, sales tax revenue, job creation, additional income and increased payroll. I am confident that by working together, we can develop and enact a comprehensive plan to legalize sports betting in New York."

Addabbo cited New Jersey's 8.5 percent tax on sports betting which saw a yield of

\$2.45 million in November alone. In May, Addabbo said there was preliminary legislation on the senate floor in Albany that would see that legalized sports betting was properly implemented.

"It is big money, we know it is. People enjoy it as entertainment, but there is an illegal element to it," Addabbo said in May. "We had a hearing earlier this year through the gaming committee and

a gentleman from Nevada gave testimony and said, 'We've practically eliminated illegal gaming and betting.'"

But tax on wagers alone is not the only upside Addabbo sees potential for; sales tax revenue, job creation, additional income and increased payroll across could bring additional funds for the state.

The deadline for the legislature to vote on the 2020 budget is April 1.





## Transportation Spotlight

Record high population, employment, and visitors, coupled with chronic underinvestment in the region's transit system, have strained New York's aging infrastructure. Excess traffic congestion costs the region an estimated \$20 billion annually in delays and lost productivity.

### More Cars on the Road Making More Trips

Vehicle registrations in New York City have grown over three times faster than the population since 2012.

#### Vehicle Registration

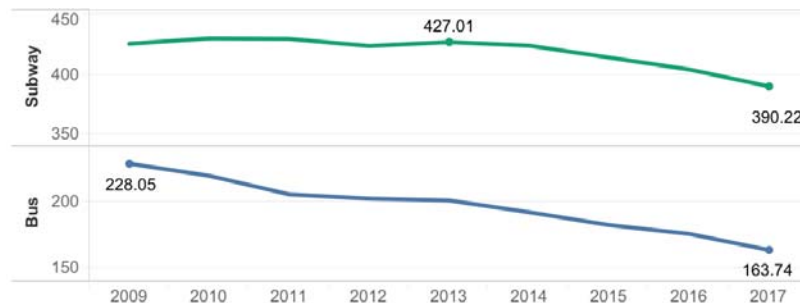


- Total trips made by taxis and for-hire vehicles have increased 32% since 2016, totaling more than 1 million trips per day.
- In a recent citywide survey, half of all ride-hail trips replaced public transit trips in 2017.
- The average taxi speed in Manhattan's central business districts (below 60th Street) is 7.1 mph, 22 percent slower than in 2010.

#### Ridership

- Total subway rides per New York City worker have fallen every year since 2013.
- Total bus rides per New York City worker have fallen every year since 2009.

#### Annual Rides per Worker



#### Subway Performance



**79.4%**

In 2018, 79.4% of subway trips were completed within five minutes of scheduled time, up 0.4% from 2017.

In 2018, there were 815 major incidents that delayed 50 or more trains across the system, up 2.5% since 2015.

#### Bus Performance



**5.9 mph**

Bus speeds in Manhattan averaged just 5.9 mph between 2015 and 2018. Citywide, buses averaged a maximum speed of 7.7 mph annually over the same period.



## The African American Heritage Committee's 2019 Black History Month Celebration

By: Corey Ince



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and the African American Heritage Committee hosted their annual Black History Month Celebration on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. The event was filled with dance performances, scholarship award presentations, honors for six people who have made positive impact on our communities and much more. Our District Manager, Mark McMillan, was one of the honorees who received the Civic Award.

Actor, singer, dancer, director, writer and producer Obba Babatundé was the keynoter speaker for the night. His powerful message reminding everyone that our "words are thoughts and thoughts are things" resounded with the audience and encouraged us all to take more consideration into what and how we say things to one another.

District Manager Mark McMillan's acceptance speech was a call to action for those who are not currently civically engaged to step forward and do positive work within their community. Creating a dialog and taking the time to understand one another's views helps us all to work cohesively. "You don't always have to be right, you don't have to be democrat or republican, you just have to be involved".

The celebration was held inside the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall. There were many in attendance including, Board Members Verdell Boncour, Jackie Campbell, Barbara Clements, Robert Glover, Fay Hill, Curlene Nelson, Marcia O'Brien and Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick.

## NYC Parks Appoints Michael Dockett Queens Borough Commissioner

QGAzette.com | March 20, 2019

NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, announced the appointment of Michael Dockett as borough commissioner of Queens Parks. Dockett has worked at NYC Parks for 33 years, and most recently served as assistant commissioner for the Urban Park Service. He will succeed Dorothy Lewandowski, who recently retired as borough commissioner after serving for 14 years in that position.

"Mike Dockett has had a lasting impact on the many divisions he has worked in at NYC Parks," said Commissioner Silver. "I am confident that his background in environmental education, enforcement, and emergency management will be a benefit in his new role leading Queens' beloved green spaces."



Mike Dockett named Queens Parks Commissioner

Queens is home to more than 460 parks, with 7,740 acres of open space. Currently, Parks has approximately 250 active capital improvement projects underway in the borough.

Dockett began his career with Parks in 1984 as an urban park ranger in Queens. He rose through the ranks to become a ranger supervisor and borough director in Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Dockett then went on to become the director of Central Communications, and was later promoted to park & recreation manager of Brooklyn's District 17 & 18, as well as being the borough's Green Street manager. Dockett became Brooklyn's chief of recreation, prior to returning to the Urban Park Service as its chief and eventual assistant commissioner.

Michael Dockett has served as the assistant commissioner for the Urban Park Service since 2008. In this role, he was responsible for the operations of the Parks Enforcement Patrol, Central Communications, and Emergency Management for the agency, and also oversaw critical enforcement operations and health and safety compliance during the outdoor pool and beach seasons. He established and implemented plans in response to coastal storms and other hazards impacting parks. In 2016, Dockett received the Mary Purcell Award at Parks' Annual Awards ceremony, in recognition of his long lasting influence on the Maintenance, Operations, and Urban Park Service divisions.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### Cooking Grease

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For more information on Fatburgs and how to prevent this costly problem, visit [fatburgs.nyc](http://fatburgs.nyc).

## CONTACT US

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