

We have a February Newsletter coming out very soon, and I will be sure to forward that over to you when it is completed and released.

- In January, Council Member Powers introduced legislation to allow tenants to postpone their Local Law 55 apartment inspections until after the pandemic has ended. Local Law 55 of 2018 requires owners of buildings with three or more apartments to keep their tenants' apartments free of mold and pests, and it includes a requirement to annually inspect units for indoor allergen hazards. In the past year, our office heard from many tenants concerned about landlords conducting these inspections during the pandemic. Many have emphasized the steps they have taken to minimize contacts with others out of concern for their health. Any tenant will still be able to request an inspection, but now have more control over who enters their apartment during the pandemic.
- Council Member Powers recently joined the Hotel Association's call to help save our city's hotels. Hotels serve as places of business and travel, and have immense economic benefit for surrounding communities. The lack of tourism that has coincided with the economic downturn from Covid-19 has severely impacted the industry and has forced many hotel locations to close their doors, some permanently. The Council Member joins many of his colleagues and industry leaders to call on tax relief in the form of waived property taxes and help for the workers in these hotels. Moving forward, we must think of creative ways we can assist the hotel industry so we can preserve jobs and the hotels who serve as economic drivers in our community.
- The Vanderbilt YMCA, which has been being utilized as a temporary safe haven shelter reduction site, has extended their contract with DHS/DSS through to June of this year. It was viewed that the need to reduce the density inside our city's shelter system is still necessary to prevent the further spread of Covid-19. Additionally, they plan to utilize more of the space that is currently not being used at the facility by adding additional 100 additional beds to the facility. Overall, our office has not received complaints stemming directly from the clients at the Vanderbilt YMCA, and the program has seen success with very little turnover from their clients who have been receiving services there. We plan on communicating with the leadership at this facility frequently in order to be sure things continue to run smoothly, and to share any concerns or complaints we receive from the surrounding community.