

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, MARCH 2021

It's been a little over a year since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in New York. One year later, we are finally nearing a turning point in our fight as more vaccines are approved and more people get shots.

The losses we faced as a city, state, and country were absolutely devastating. We lost thousands of New Yorkers in nursing homes -- some of our state's most vulnerable. We are still losing people. Black and Latinx Americans were almost twice as likely to die from COVID-19 than whites, according to the Center for Disease Control. That is a staggering reality that we must reckon with. We can never allow this to happen again.

The Legislature is taking important steps to protect nursing home residents - read more about that below. We are also weighing a variety of ways to raise revenue for the state to prevent cuts to public programs and invest in high quality education, jobs, housing and healthcare.

On another note, by now you will have seen the [disturbing and credible allegations](#) brought by three young women against the Governor. This behavior is totally unacceptable from anyone anywhere. That the Governor—the most powerful elected official in New York—engaged in this behavior disqualifies him for public service. My statement calling for his resignation can be found here: <https://twitter.com/HarveyforNY/status/1366045094684598272?s=20>.

Harvey

My Bill to Reduce Sentences for Incarcerated Students Passes the Assembly

Last week, the Assembly passed my bill (A.3078) to expand merit time eligibility criteria to include the pursuit of a college degree in prison. Non-violent offenders are eligible to reduce their sentences through the merit time system. Under current law, a merit time allowance may be granted when an incarcerated person successfully participates in a work and treatment program and when they obtain either a GED, an alcohol and substance abuse treatment certificate, a vocational trade certificate following at least six months of vocational programming, or performs at least four hundred hours of service as part of a community work crew.

The status quo incentivizes incarcerated people working towards a college degree to leave those programs and instead opt for vocational or other programs to meet the eligibility criteria for merit time. Attaining a college education while incarcerated is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism, with 85% to 98% of graduates not reoffending. By incentivizing college education in prison, we are setting up incarcerated individuals with a better chance of succeeding upon release.

My Statement on Sexual Harassment Allegations Against the Governor

February 28, 2021

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein Issues Statement Regarding Governor Cuomo

“Over the past week we’ve heard from Lindsey Boylan and Charlotte Bennett on the traumatic experiences they had with the Governor. The testimonies they shared were detailed and profoundly disturbing. Many survivors of assault or harassment stay silent because of fear of retaliation or reliving the trauma they faced. I am thankful to Lindsey and Charlotte for coming out and sharing their truth. It is not easy to be vulnerable at a time like this.

We’ve known that Governor Cuomo is a bully. Whether by name calling some of my colleagues, threatening their careers, or taking advantage of people in the workplace — one thing is clear — we cannot allow this behavior to continue and go unchecked. If we do not act now, we become complicit in his actions. With this in mind, I am joining the call for Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign.”

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Vaccine Updates

Check your eligibility here: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

New York State is launching a new pilot program to begin administering the Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine to eligible New Yorkers during the overnight hours at the Yankee Stadium, Javits Center and New York State Fair Mass Vaccination Sites. Following a discussion with the White House COVID-19 Task Force, New York is taking measures to distribute the state's allocation of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as quickly as possible, as states have been informed there will be a lag in the following week's allocation. As part of this effort, thousands of new appointments will be made available at each of the three sites in the coming days. Counties, pharmacies, and Federally Qualified Health Centers will also be receiving Johnson & Johnson allocations this week.

New York expects to receive approximately 164,800 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week. As the federal supply of this new vaccine increases, these efforts will be adapted and expanded to other sites throughout the state. New York expects its next allocation of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in approximately ten days.

Check your eligibility here: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Food pantry workers and volunteers now eligible to receive the vaccine

We signed on to this letter to get food pantry workers eligible:

<https://twitter.com/votejgr/status/1366483935421730816?s=20> and days later, we won.

Food pantry, food bank, and grab and go site workers will now be included in Phase 1B of the vaccination distribution. Thanks to my colleagues Assembly Members Jessica González-Rojas and Linda Rosenthal for your advocacy.

Check your eligibility here: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

You Are Protected From Eviction - Hardship Declaration Form Reminder

Landlords are required to provide hardship declaration forms to tenants and completed forms can be returned to them. Be sure to keep a copy for your records. To fill out a form or learn more, visit: www.nycourts.gov/covid-eefpa.shtml.

Legislature to Pass Legislation Repealing Governor's Emergency Powers

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie today announced the Legislature will pass legislation repealing the temporary emergency powers that were granted to the governor last year at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation will allow current directives pertaining to preserving the public health to continue.

"I think everyone understands where we were back in March and where we are now. We certainly see the need for a quick response but also want to move toward a system of increased oversight, and review. The public deserves to have checks and balances. Our proposal would create a system with increased input while at the same time ensuring New Yorkers continue to be protected," Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said.

"A year into the pandemic, and as New Yorkers receive the vaccine, the temporary emergency powers have served their purpose – it is time for them to be repealed," Speaker Heastie said. "These temporary emergency powers were granted as New York was devastated by a virus we knew nothing about. Now it is time for our government to return to regular order."

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Legislature passed legislation to give the governor emergency powers to allow a nimble response as a global pandemic struck New York. These temporary emergency powers allowed the governor broader powers to issue executive orders, and are set to expire on April 30. The legislation introduced today will repeal the temporary emergency powers immediately, while allowing executive actions critical to public health to remain.

Standing directives taken by executive action which manage the spread or reduction of COVID-19, facilitate the vaccination process or require use of face coverings, will remain in effect for an additional 30 days. While these can then be extended or modified, the governor will be required to notify relevant Senate and Assembly committee chairs as well as the temporary president of the Senate and the speaker of the Assembly with the need for the extension or modification, and the threat to public health and safety, and provide an opportunity to comment. The governor cannot extend actions beyond the first 30 days unless they explicitly relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Directives can be modified to revise the number of individuals, businesses or entities impacted by an executive order - for example individuals eligible for vaccination or seating capacity of a business. Directives will not be continuously modified or extended unless the governor has responded to comments provided by the chairs of relevant committees.

Where a local government in the state is exclusively impacted by an ongoing executive action, the local government leadership will also receive notice and an opportunity to comment on the continuation or modification.

Fifteen days after the legislation goes into effect, all current suspensions and directives will be posted on the website of the governor in a searchable format, and include details on such suspensions and directives, including the public health and safety reasons any directives were extended or modified. Every 30 days after, the website will be updated to include responses to written comments or information requests from relevant committee chairs or municipal government entities.

The legislation will also allow the Legislature to repeal a declared State of Emergency by joint resolution, and will keep disease outbreaks in the definition of disaster situation that can be subject to a state of emergency.



HOUSING LOTTERY NOW OPEN

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WHERE?

There are apartment openings in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, located between 14th Street and 23rd Street, 1st Avenue to Avenue C.

TRANSIT

L Train, M9/M14/M15/M23 buses (and more).

AMENITIES

24-hour on-site property manager and security, outdoor space/playgrounds, laundry room, café, gym, bike storage, children's play space among others. Some amenities require an additional fee.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals or households who meet the income and size requirements listed in the table below may apply. To be eligible, households must also have less than \$250,000 in assets (some exceptions apply for retirement accounts). Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. NYC residents will receive a preference.

Completed applications will only be accepted either by mail or online. All applicants will be placed on a waiting list for future vacancies. Only qualified applicants will be eligible for apartments.

The StuyTown 2020 lottery waiting list has expired. You must reapply if you are interested in any of the below unit types. Waiting lists for unit types not included in this lottery are still active.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Apply online or through mail. **To apply online, please visit: stuytownlottery.com.** To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: **Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village Wait List, Peter Stuyvesant Station, PO Box 991, New York, NY 10009 or download from stuytownlottery.com.** Send **ONLY** one application. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. In-person applications cannot be accepted.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **March 31, 2021**. No late applications will be considered. Mailed applications must be sent via United States Postal Service regular delivery. **Applications mailed through a parcel carrier or any express delivery by USPS that requires a signature will not be accepted.**

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. After the lottery is completed, you will be contacted and advised of your place on the waitlist.

165% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS

Apartment Size	Monthly Rent* Minimum - Maximum	Household Size**	Annual Household Income (2020 AMI)*** Minimum**** - Maximum
1 Bedroom	\$1,200 - \$2,000	1	\$41,143 - \$131,340
		2	\$41,143 - \$150,150
		3	\$41,143 - \$168,960
2 Bedroom	\$1,400 - \$2,600	2	\$48,000 - \$150,150
		3	\$48,000 - \$168,960
		4	\$48,000 - \$187,605
		5	\$48,000 - \$202,620
3 Bedroom	\$1,800 - \$2,950	3	\$61,715 - \$168,960
		4	\$61,715 - \$187,605
		5	\$61,715 - \$202,620
		6	\$61,715 - \$217,635
		7	\$61,715 - \$232,650

Rents and Household Earning Limits are based on 2020 HUD AMI limits and are subject to change.

*Rent subject to change and includes gas for cooking and electricity; additional surcharge for A/C.

**Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including partners, permanent roommates, family members and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

***HHI = Household Income. Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income for household members.

****Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies.

Mayor Bill de Blasio
HDC President Eric Enderlin



Feel free to contact Assembly Member Harvey Epstein's office with any questions or concerns.

Our office is located at

107 Avenue B (store front)

You can email us at epsteinb@nyassembly.gov or call us at 212-979-9696