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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

April 14, 2021 Manhattan Community Board 6 Full Board Report

Full Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/manhattanbp/4-8covidupdate-1186206?e=f80849c37e>

1. My “Future of Open Streets” report is now available on my website (<https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/The-Future-of-Open-Streets-r3.pdf>). Among other things, the report calls for “Restaurant Row” on West 46th Street to become a permanent pedestrian-only plaza by converting the remaining traffic lane into a pedestrian and bicycle-only pathway.
2. I also released “Saving Manhattan Small Business: A Roadmap for Recovery” on my website (<https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Saving-Manhattan-Small-Business.pdf>). It “addresses the ways in which local government can play a key role in supporting and strengthening our small business sector, especially our storefronts.”
3. COVID Vaccine Eligibility Expansion: As a reminder, all New Yorkers 16 and older became eligible for the COVID vaccine on Tuesday, April 6th. Getting a vaccine is getting easier as the supply expands, but it is far from streamlined. I compiled a checklist on [my website](#) to help you know about every possible option. If you need help making an appointment, contact Junior Martinez in my office at 212-531-1609 or juniormartinez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.
4. Veterans Treatment Court Update: Several years ago, I called for the first Veterans Treatment Court in Manhattan, and now, New York State has created universal access to Veterans Treatment Courts, a type of problem-solving court that provides an alternative to incarceration for veterans who have mental health or substance use disorders. I am thrilled to see this important victory for New York State’s nearly 700,000 veterans.
5. Consolidated Resources for Open NYC initiatives: With the weather growing increasingly warm and people spending more time outside, I wanted to consolidate resources for the various Open NYC initiatives managed by the City below. Applications for all of these programs can be found on my website.
 - Open Streets: A now-permanent program that closes streets to traffic to allow more space for pedestrians, cyclists, and restaurant goers. The application for new and returning Open Streets is now live.
 - Open Restaurants: A now-permanent program that allows restaurants to expand dining to sidewalks and in curb lanes.
 - Open Culture: Closes a street for outdoor arts experiences that arts and cultural institutions and venues can sell tickets to, through Sunday, 10/31. Open Culture programming is allowed only on designated streets (arts groups and I successfully advocated for the inclusion of streets above 116th St. after the program initially included no uptown blocks).
 - Open Storefronts: Through Thursday, 9/30, allows ground-floor businesses to operate outdoors.
 - Outdoor Learning: Allows classes to be held outside for the 2020-21 school year. The program is open to public, private, and charter schools and Learning Bridges locations.