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## **April 2021 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6**

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Full Board Report:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_PjuyEnoXaQUxN4b0u3Oqz1yAHuczP8v/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_PjuyEnoXaQUxN4b0u3Oqz1yAHuczP8v/view?usp=sharing)

### **Highlights**

1. Late on April 6th, the Senate passed a \$212 billion State Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This is the ninth State Budget I've voted on since becoming a State Senator, and it's by far the most important of my career.

Just a few short months ago, the Executive Budget proposed devastating cuts to public schools, health care and higher education. In response, the Legislature avoided austerity and instead crafted a State Budget that will help New Yorkers recover from the pandemic. More details available in my board report, linked above.

2. On March 30th, the Senate passed legislation I've co-sponsored since 2013, the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA), which will establish a new office for the regulation of cannabis and decriminalize the recreational use of adult-use marijuana. The MRTA is the most progressive marijuana legalization legislation in the country, creating a framework for a new regulated industry that will prevent large companies from dominating the marketplace and ensure equity. I am grateful for the hard work and vision of my colleague Sen. Liz Krueger, who has championed this legislation for years, and for Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for her leadership in getting this bill across the finish line.
3. Join me and Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal at 6pm on Sunday, April 18 for a conversation with Dr. Peter Marks, the nation's leading expert on vaccines. As the City, State, and federal government ramp up distribution of three different

vaccines, there are understandably many outstanding questions. Get those answered and more information directly from the doctor in charge.