

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, MAY 2021

Friend,

Happy pride month! Let's take this month to reflect on the struggles of LGBTQI+ movement, the victories, and the fights we must continue. I proudly supported landmark legislation addressing LGBTQI+ issues, like the [Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act \(GENDA\)](#), ending the [Walking While Trans](#) ban, and ending the repugnant "gay panic" defense, and it's an honor to be an ally in the fight to ensure all New Yorkers have the strongest civil rights as possible.

Harvey

Standing With Stuy Town Tenants in Their Legal Battle Against Major Capital Improvements

The Stuy Town / Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association is suing the Division of Housing and Community Renewal to nullify the Major Capital Improvement (MCI) Reasonable Cost Schedule (RCS) and additional regulations that are riddled with loopholes that go against the will of the Legislature in enacting the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA), and create opportunities for the same type of profiteering off of the Major Capital Improvement system that the HSTPA was written specifically and unambiguously to outlaw. As written, the RCS allows for landlords to recoup far more than industry average prices on many MCIs. Additional regulations also give too much latitude to DHCR to waive the schedule entirely. This translates to higher rent increases to rent regulated tenants and we must fight back against that.

I applaud the Stuy Town Tenants Association for taking the lead on behalf of a million-plus rent stabilized New Yorkers to challenge problematic actions by DHCR, which violate the HSTPA.

During the rulemaking process that yielded the Reasonable Cost Schedule and additional regulations, my colleagues and I vocally opposed the proposed schedule and submitted testimony identifying

legal issues with DHCR's proposal. I also organized over a dozen of my Assembly colleagues to sign on to a [letter](#) to the DHCR commissioner opposing the regulations.

I look forward to this matter being resolved in court.

Update from Albany

I have been working hard to advance my bills in the final days of the 2021 legislative session. Earlier this week, I passed 2 more of my bills, relating to landlord training and modernizing poll worker training. A5393A facilitates landlord training to ensure they are prepared to be good actors in their communities and understand their legal responsibilities to tenants. I was happy to work with upstate Sen. Pete Harckham to get this bill done.

In order to attract more poll workers, we must ensure that examinations and training processes are streamlined and easily accessible, without sacrificing rigorous instruction. That is why I worked with Sen. Liz Krueger to introduce and passed A4257A, to modernize the practice of administering exams and instructional courses by providing the opportunity to complete these requirements online, while also ensuring that poll workers can train on physical voting machines when necessary.

Walk-in COVID-19 Vaccinations Available at City and State-run Sites

As of Thursday, April 29, all New York State mass vaccination sites are open to all individuals 12 years of age and older that reside in the United States for walk-in vaccination on a first come first serve basis for all. The walk-in appointments are reserved for first doses only with second doses to be scheduled automatically after administration of the initial shot. Additionally, all vaccine providers are encouraged to likewise allow walk-in appointments and for eligible New Yorkers

City-run sites also allow for any New Yorker (age 12+) to walk-in and get a vaccine. Some sites have age restrictions, so please bear that in mind when you make your appointment. Visit <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/> and <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> to find a site near you.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) APPLICATIONS OPEN

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply or visit <https://nysrenthelp.otda.ny.gov/en/>.

If you have technical issues with your application please contact our office at 212-979-9696 between 9:30 and 5:30 Monday-Thursday or by emailing help.district74@gmail.com at any time.

The New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will provide significant economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance and utility arrears assistance. Details on eligibility and the application process can be found here:

<https://nysrenthelp.otda.ny.gov/en/>.

Small Business Relief Application Open 6/10

Visit <https://esd.ny.gov/pandemic-small-business-recovery-grant-program> for more information

The successful recovery of small businesses like yours is key to New York State's future. The \$800 million COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program provides grant funding to small and micro businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations impacted by the pandemic. The grants will be flexible and can be used for a number of different business operating expenses, including payroll, rent or mortgage payments, taxes, utilities, PPE or other business expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021.

Program application details are still being finalized, but if you are a New York State small business owner and would like to receive updates about the COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program, please click here. You will be alerted when more information is available, and applications are being accepted.

Upcoming Events

Jazz Evening in Celebration of Pride with the Richard Cortez Band - 6/6 @6:00

Let's come together to celebrate Pride Month with an evening of live jazz by the Richard Cortez Band. This event takes place live and in-person at the flagpole in the west side of Stuyvesant Square Park.

Stuyvesant Square Park • New York, NY Sun, June 6, 2021 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

Register [Here](#)

Learn more about the Richard Cortez Band [here](#).

NYC Pride Parade - 6/27 @ 12:00

Visit <https://www.nycpride.org/events> for a list of pride events this month, and information about the parade on June 27th.

Brooklyn Corp A Tenants' Rights & The Emergency Rental Assistance Program Virtual Town Hall - 6/10 @6:00

Rent relief is here! The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for families and individuals to pay rent, or has made many choose between paying for rent and other essential needs. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will provide significant economic relief to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities.

Brooklyn Corp A attorneys will present on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), tenants' rights, housing court updates, and the extended eviction moratorium and its impact on both tenants and landlords. They will also answer your general legal questions (not personal case specific).

Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Os9eCXNySHy4QttJVPurJA

Forum on Ranked Choice Voting - 6/10 @6PM



RANK THE VOTE

GET READY TO HIT THE POLLS BY LEARNING ABOUT RANKED CHOICE VOTING. PREPARE YOURSELF BY EDUCATING YOURSELF!

When: Jun 10, 2021 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Register in advance for this meeting:
events.district74@gmail.com

RANK THE VOTE NYC

Sponsored By:
Senator Brad Hoylman
Senator Liz Krueger
Council Member Carlina Rivera
Council Member Keith Powers

Assembly Member Harvey Epstein

Join us for a forum on ranked choice voting on June 10th at 6 P.M. just in time for the New York City primary. Panelists from [Rank the Vote NYC](#) will walk participants through the ranking process and answer audience questions.

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 help.district74@gmail.com or call us at 212-979-9696