



Update

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

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Borough President Gale A. Brewer's Update for September 14, 2021 CB Six Full Board

Full newsletters available at [COVID Newsletters Archives - Gale Brewer](#)

Proposed Lexington Avenue Redesign: Borough President Brewer thanks Community Board 6 for its consideration of a resolution of support for the Department of Transportation's proposed Lexington Avenue redesign to mitigate pedestrian congestion around Grand Central Terminal.

Appointment of James N. Katz as the Manhattan Deputy Borough

President: James N. Katz has been appointed Manhattan Deputy Borough President. Deputy Borough President Katz comes to the Borough President's Office from the New York City Economic Development Corporation where he worked for the last seven and a half years as an Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff. At EDC, Mr. Katz was a senior officer of the corporation with responsibility for day-to-day management of the President's Office and of four departments consisting of 49 staff members in aggregate. These included the Strategic Investments Group (EDC's mission-driven investing arm) and its Government and Community Relations, Public Affairs, and Marketing Departments. Since the start of the Mayor's term, he has played a central role in high profile land use, real estate, and capital construction matters on behalf of EDC and the City. A lawyer by training, Mr. Katz served previously as a Senior Advisor and Special Counsel to the New York State Attorney General where he worked on enforcement and legislative matters related to nonprofit governance and public integrity. Mr. Katz holds a JD from Harvard Law School, a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a Bachelor's from Brown University. Matthew Washington left at the end of July and has joined the staff of a large non-for-profit housing organization.

Virtual Public Meetings: Public meetings can once again be held virtually as a result of a bill passed in the legislature's special session. The legislation suspends in person meetings until Saturday, January 15th, 2022. In person meetings will resume the day after. If you think it is appropriate, please consider advocating for legislation that would allow virtual or hybrid meetings to take place permanently. Borough President Brewer wrote to the Governor, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie urging that the Open Meetings Law be included in the special session agenda.

NYS Training on the Open Meetings Law: This Thursday, September 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Kristin O'Neill, Assistant Director of the Committee on Open Government, will be presenting *a virtual* training program. The program will consist of an approximately one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question-and-answer period. Pre-Registration is required, however, all registrations,

up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved. Register for this training session [here](#).

Borough Board Presentation on Open Restaurants Text Amendment and New York State Independent Redistricting Commission: Thursday, September 23rd at 8:30 am is the September 2021 Manhattan Borough Board meeting. The Borough Board will hear from the New York City Department of City Planning about the Open Restaurants Text Amendment, which will be voted on that day by the voting members of the Manhattan Borough Board. In addition, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission will make a presentation about the timeline of their preliminary maps and public hearings. Register for the Zoom meeting [here](#).

Congestion Pricing Public Hearing Dates: The MTA will hold virtual [public hearings about the proposed congestion pricing plan](#) in the next month. The Manhattan hearings will be:

- Thursday, 9/23 at 6 pm – for people living and/or working on 60th St. and below; register to testify or request accommodations [here](#)
- Wednesday, 10/6 at 6 pm – for people living and/or working on 61st St. and above; register to testify or request accommodations [here](#)

All meetings can be watched via [this Zoom link](#). (Borough President Brewer has [requested](#) that Gov. Hochul appoint a Manhattan resident to the Traffic Mobility Review Board, which will make recommendations related to congestion pricing.)

Manhattan Vaccine and Recovery Task Force: All are welcome to join Borough President Brewer's Manhattan Vaccine and Recovery Task Force. To join, please email Chief of Staff Jessica Mates at jmates@manhattanbp.nyc.gov. All of the past discussions will be archived on the Borough President's website in the near future, but Jessica Mates can share the recordings with you upon request. This week's discussion was focused on education.

Capital Budget Allocations: Borough President Brewer's Office has completed the capital budget process. All Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Funding Allocations are posted on the Borough President's website. Groups, schools, and city agencies have been notified via email and letters are pending. Manhattan Borough President has allocated \$211,000,000, including \$33,105,000 in Fiscal Year 2022.

Press Conference with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams for Remote Options: Borough President Brewer joined Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Chair of the NYC Council's Education Committee Mark Traeger at a press conference to advocate for schools to reopen and for parents to have a remote learning option. Borough President Brewer also advocated for this when she testified before the City Council on September 1st. Borough President Brewer's testimony is available [here](#). On August 6th, Borough President Brewer wrote a letter to Chancellor Porter expressing support for remote options as part of the plan to fully reopen schools, as she does not believe the two approaches are mutually exclusive.

New York State Eviction Moratorium extended: A bill to extend New York State's eviction moratorium through January 15th, 2022 has been passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kathy Hochul. This became an especially urgent priority once the Supreme Court struck down the federal eviction moratorium last week (after striking down New York's in mid-August). If you receive a notice from your landlord that contains a declaration of hardship form, be sure to fill that out as a measure to protect against eviction.

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program: If you have fallen behind on rent or have tenants who have, you may apply to the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Borough President Brewer's ERAP flyer is available [here](#). The flyer breaks down the application process, and you can get assistance from Catholic Charities, University Settlement, or by calling Borough President Brewer's Northern Manhattan office at 212-531-1609.

Vaccination Requirement for Those 12 and Older at Certain Venues: The vaccination requirement for customers 12+ and employees of indoor dining, entertainment, and fitness venues is now being enforced. The "Key to NYC" FAQ [here](#) can help business operators understand requirements, and businesses can display signage so customers know about the vaccination requirement before entering a facility.

Curbside Composting Resumes: Sign-ups to resume curbside composting are now open [here](#). The Department of Sanitation will notify you when service will start in your neighborhood.

Manhattan Arts Survey: Artists and arts organizations can fill out Borough President Brewer's Manhattan Arts Survey by Thursday, September 30th, to share their experiences with relief, reopening, and recovery efforts. Borough President Brewer welcomes your recommendations on how City resources can better support artists' work. The survey is available [here](#).

NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre Grants: The NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre will award grants of up to \$50,000 to address the underrepresentation of women in entertainment industries, sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. Apply by Monday, November 1st [here](#). Borough President Brewer's full e-newsletter lists many more funding opportunities.

Call for art created during and related to the pandemic for fall show in the Maggie Peyton Gallery: The Manhattan Borough President is seeking artists to participate in my "Welcome Back" exhibit this fall, which will feature artwork created during and related to the pandemic in New York City, to be mounted in the Maggie Peyton Gallery in my office. In partnership with curator Jean Sonderand (they/them), the exhibit will be a reflection of this time and a celebration of our collective reopening.