

# A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2021**

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Friend,

We are still dealing with the devastating consequences of Hurricane Ida - my staff has been guiding constituents through making damage assessments to the city, if needed.

We lost 13 New Yorkers due to the record breaking rainfall of the storm. Eleven of those people lived in basement apartments. These were avoidable tragedies. To prevent more of these tragic deaths in the future, we must take a 3 pronged approach: end our reliance on fossil fuels, increase resilient infrastructure (including improved drainage systems), and bring basement apartments up to code so they have basic safety features.

I am proud to be sponsoring a bill (A4854) that would responsibly legalize accessory dwelling units (including basement apartments) statewide, to add more safe housing to New York's stock. If passed, New York would join states like Connecticut and California in implementing this sensible policy.

I look forward to fighting to pass this bill in the upcoming legislative session.

Harvey

### **Update on the Extraordinary Session**

Last week, we took several steps to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers by keeping them in their homes and allowing the business of government to take place remotely in some cases. We extended the residential and commercial eviction moratoriums to January 15, 2022, strengthened and expanded the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to guard against more attacks from a right wing Supreme Court, and allowed public meetings to happen virtually until January 15, 2022. I am committed to seeking permanent changes in the law to facilitate virtual meetings where appropriate.

Going forward, we must ensure ERAP funds are being disbursed rapidly, and the language access and other accessibility issues are addressed to ensure every New Yorker can participate in the program. I look forward to partnering with community based organizations to proactively inform tenants and landlords about ERAP.

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## **New Yorkers Can Now Get Disaster Assistance and Report Damage to FEMA**

President Biden has approved an expedited Major Disaster Declaration that will help provide federal financial relief for New Yorkers recovering from the flooding damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

In order to apply for disaster assistance and report damage to their property:

- Visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- Call 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET, 7 days a week: 1-800-621-3362 (711 or VRS available) TTY: 1-800-462-7585

Be aware that phone calls from FEMA may appear to come from an unidentified number.

Post-storm resources are available online here <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/resources/ida.page>

This site contains a growing collection of resources including :

- Get disaster assistance and report damage to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Get free emergency alerts and updates from Notify NYC
- Find a service center near you
- Transportation to service centers
- Services offered
- Cleaning after a flood
- How to prevent mold growth
- Rumor control

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## **Why Does New York State Sue Its College Students?**

I encourage you to read this [enlightening article](#) that features a bill I introduced with Senator Liz Krueger to end the practice of New York State coming after students for tuition arrears at SUNY in Albany Supreme Court. I applaud Attorney General James for committing to end this practice, which disadvantages students who can't travel to Albany to present their defenses.

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## **Opening Our First Publicly Available Fast Chargers in Our Community at Essex Parking Garage**



Everyday we see the true impact of climate change on our state and

country. New York City is launching the first set of DC fast chargers at The Delancey and Essex garage and I was proud to join them for this important moment. We can reduce carbon emission by increasing the amount of publicly available electric charging stations, and we must act now.

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### **Damage Assessment Tool**

The Damage Assessment Tool allows the City to immediately collect damage information from New Yorkers to assess and respond to storm impact. Report storm damage in your neighborhood at [on.nyc.gov/report-damage](https://on.nyc.gov/report-damage).

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### **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](mailto: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/>.

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### **Apply for the Excluded Worker Fund**

**Application is online now: <https://dol.ny.gov/EWF>**

The State Legislature passed the Excluded Worker Fund (“the Fund” or “EWF”), the first such large-scale program in the country on April 19, 2021. This \$2.1 billion fund will provide financial relief for New Yorkers state-wide who have suffered income loss during the pandemic and were left out of the various federal relief programs, including unemployment and pandemic benefits.

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### **Report Issues With Manhattan Open Restaurants to NYC DOT**

In addition to 311, you can report issues directly to Manhattan Borough Commissioner Ed Pincar Jr at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/contact/contact-form.shtml?routing=mn>

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### **Upcoming Events**

*Hang with Harvey*

My office will be conducting more events to connect with constituents in the district, as well as this Fall (see below). If you have questions about resources or suggestions on where to hold additional outreach events, please contact my office to make recommendations.

1. Bellevue South Park Mt. Carmel Pl & E 27th Street Thursday, September 23rd 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
2. Stuyvesant Square Park Nathan D Perlman Pl & E 15th Street Wednesday October 6th 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
3. Riis/Wald Houses NE Corner of East 6th Street & Ave D Wednesday October 27th 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

*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](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com) or call us at 212-979-9696*