



Update

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer



@galeabrewer

www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, NY, NY 10007 (212) 669-8300

431 West 125th St., Storefront, NY, NY 10027 (212) 531-1609

Please forward to a friend and ask them to subscribe! manhattanbp.nyc.gov/signup

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer's Update for November 10, 2021 CB Six Full Board

Full newsletter available [here](#).

1) COVID-19 Update:

New York City's COVID positivity rate is now 1.39%, down from 1.41% last week. Those interested in diving more deeply into local COVID statistics can check the [NYC Dept. of Health website](#) or [thecity.nyc's COVID tracker](#). If you're not yet vaccinated, find a vaccine site-- including those for boosters-- [here](#).

The big news this week is that CDC Director Rochelle Walensky has [approved use](#) of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5–11 (12 and over were already approved for Pfizer). These vaccines are now available at [City-run vaccine sites](#) (where children will be eligible for the \$100 incentive), at many schools, and at many (if not most) pediatricians' offices and pharmacies. The City now has a parent hotline to answer specific questions: 212-COVID-19 (212-2684-319).

2) Non-Essential Helicopter Flights:

To address the [public health and safety hazard](#) of non-essential helicopter flights over Manhattan, I've spearheaded the first-ever coalition of elected officials, advocates, and local residents from New York and New Jersey to call on the federal government to take immediate action.

In a [news conference](#) outside the West 30th Street Heliport last week, my Helicopter Task Force released a [letter](#) signed by 35 elected officials addressed to the Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg asking his agency to impose special flight rules for non-essential helicopter flights over densely populated areas, including the City of New York, and adjacent New Jersey.

It's long past time to end helicopter rides being treated as a wild, wild, west that benefit only tourists and the wealthy.

3) Sidewalk Scaffolding Sheds:

I applaud Mayor de Blasio's funding of [facade rehabilitation at NYCHA developments](#), which will result in removal of the "sheds" that have been protecting pedestrians for far too long. Sheds are a big issue everywhere, though, and last month, [I protested](#) a shed that's been up for 15 years at 51 W. 86th St.

4) Manhattan Vaccine and Recovery Task Force:

Every Tuesday my virtual Manhattan Vaccine and Recovery Task Force meets, sharing excellent information about the pandemic and New York City's reopening.

Yesterday, our task force heard from Robert Atterbury of Congressman Nadler's office. Robert presented on the recent passage of the Federal Infrastructure Bill.

To join the 3 pm Zoom any Tuesday, email info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov in advance. Here are links to recordings of the sessions along with what we discussed at each meeting (see the full archive [here](#)):

- [Drug addiction, harm reduction, and rehabilitation](#) (10/26)
- [Technology and COVID recovery](#) (10/19)
- [Vaccination strategies and how to help employment numbers rebound](#) (10/12)
- [Home-delivered meals and mental health](#) (10/5)
- [The trajectory of the pandemic and the NYC Dept. of Education Situation Room](#) (9/28)
- [Climate change's impact on NYC](#) (9/21)
- [The return to in-person school](#) (9/14)
- [Arts and culture](#) (8/31)
- [Food access, school-based mental health, and community schools](#) (8/24)

5) Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) Updates:

I made ULURP recommendations about [250 Water Street](#) (Community Board 1), the [Starrett-Lehigh and Terminal Warehouse](#) (Community Board 4), and the [Open Restaurant Text Amendment](#) (citywide).

This brings the total to 189 ULURP recommendations since I became Borough President in 2014.

The ULURPs still on the docket before the end of my term are:

an 82-unit [supportive housing project](#) by Fortune Society on a City-owned vacant lot in CB 11; and

the [New Providence Women's Shelter](#), a proposed 21-story building in CB 6 that would include a 171-bed shelter, 130 units of affordable housing, and a public medical clinic.

6) Testimony Archive:

Since the summer, I've testified in many venues about issues such as Vision Zero, congestion pricing, and Open Restaurants. Catch up on the various testimony [here](#).

As always, get in touch if you have a problem or concern we can help address: 212-669-8300 or info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.