

New York State Senator **BRAD HOYLMAN**



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REPORT TO COMMUNITY BOARD 6



Success! Ghost Guns Banned in New York

Governor Hochul recently signed my legislation with Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal ([S.14-A/A.613-A](#)) to ban the sale and possession of ghost guns in New York. In the last three years, we've seen a 479% increase in ghost gun seizures across the state. Our new law, the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act, means that no one will be able to purchase these firearms without first passing a background check. In addition, these guns, which are assembled in parts, must be serialized and sold only by a licensed gunsmith. Jose Webster died from a gunshot wound just a few months shy of his 16th birthday and I'm

grateful to his sister, Nathalie Arzu, for her advocacy on gun safety legislation.

Our New Bill Allows You to Sue Chopper Companies

I introduced legislation with Assembly Member Richard Gottfried ([S.7493](#)) to address the nuisance of helicopter noise plaguing Manhattan residents. The bill has three parts. First, it creates a right of action against entities or individuals creating an unreasonable level of sustained noise at ground level from a helicopter, including those in New Jersey. Second, it bans non-essential helicopter use in Hudson River Park. Third, it amends the New York City Charter to prohibit concession agreements with tourist chopper companies, such as those that use the City-owned helipad in Lower Manhattan. I'm hopeful our new legislation will jump-start efforts to curb chopper nuisance that disrupts our lives on a daily basis.



Children's Vaccine Survey

Do you have children who attend school in my district? Please tell me about your experience getting kids vaccinated against COVID-19.

Was it easy? Tough? Did your kid's school run out of doses? Let us know [through the survey linked here](#) so that we can help make sure distribution is running smoothly.



Celebrating a Local Hero: Crossing Guard Emily Galletti

I joined my elected colleagues, school officials, teachers, and parents at the Children's Workshop School to honor Crossing Guard Emely Galletti for her bravery and quick thinking that saved two children in the East Village. I was proud to present a NYS Senate proclamation to her, proclaiming October 22 as "Emily Galletti Appreciation Day" for her heroism.

PFAS Update

In New York, we passed legislation I sponsored (S.8817/ A.4739-C and S.439-A/ A.445-A) banning PFAS "forever chemicals" from firefighting foam and food packaging (including pizza boxes). PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl compounds) have been linked to cancer, weakened immunity, thyroid disease and other health effects, but they are still widely used in household items and do not break down in the environment. On Monday, October 18, the Biden administration took significant steps to rein in PFAS. I

applaud the Biden administration for taking steps to limit the use and proliferation of PFAS nationwide, and I will continue to do whatever it takes to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers from these dangerous forever chemicals.

Press Conference Calling for Passage of the Adult Survivor's Act

I joined Safe Horizon, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, and survivors Evelyn Yang, Drew Dixon and Donna Hylton in calling for the passage of my bill, the Adult Survivors Act (S.66/A.648). Today's event came on the heels of an op-ed authored by Safe Horizon CEO Liz Roberts highlighting the importance of the ASA for women of color, who often have even more hurdles to climb to get a fair day in court than other victims of assault. I'm proud that our legislation passed the Senate unanimously last year.



FAIR Vaccines Mandate Act

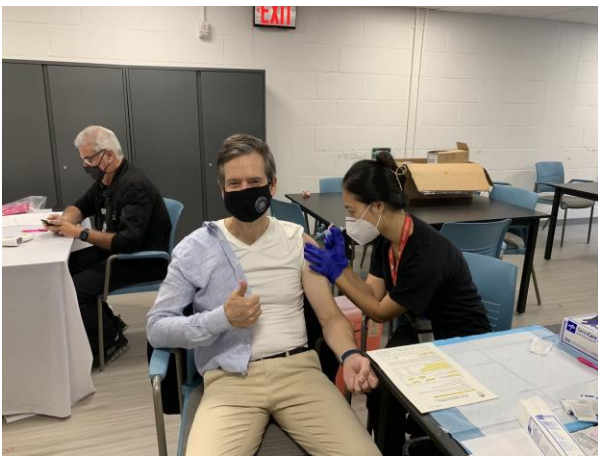
On October 6, I introduced legislation to finally end the unfair double standard in our current vaccine mandate that allows out of state performers and athletes to enter venues without proof of vaccination. Local performers and athletes, on the other hand, are not allowed to work in New York venues without proof of vaccination. This loophole puts the lives of New Yorkers at risk.

My Free Flu Shot Event

I recently hosted a free flu shot event at the Fulton Community Center at Hudson Guild. I was proud to partner with Mount Sinai and Hudson Guild to ensure everyone in the neighborhood could get their shot.

During the pandemic, it's more important than ever to get a flu shot to avoid taking up hospital beds for COVID-19 patients. As we continue to fight against COVID-19, it is essential to make sure you are also protected from the flu for your health and that of all New Yorkers.

You can use [NYC's vaccine finder](#) to find a location near you offering the flu vaccine.



New York State Senate Women of Distinction Award

I was honored to give Anne del Castillo, Esq. the New York State Senate Woman of Distinction Award in Stuyvesant Town - Peter Cooper Village, the residential complex where del Castillo was raised and still lives. Del Castillo has served as a senior executive at the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment since 2014, and currently leads the agency.

Anne del Castillo, Esq. represents the best of public service. Throughout her career she's worked to support the arts in New York City, a traditionally male-dominated field, and during the last 18 months she's demonstrated her leadership, creativity and mettle by helping lead the entertainment industry out of some of the darkest days in its history. I'm thrilled to honor a hometown hero.

Making Streets Safer: New Street Design Unveiled on Broadway

I joined Mayor de Blasio, DOT Commissioner Hank Gutman, Councilmember Carlina Rivera, Assemblymember Dick Gottfried and community advocates in cutting the ribbon at the new innovative street design unveiled on Broadway last week. New York's streets need to prioritize people, not cars.

This design along Broadway is a major step to correct decades of poor planning that has compromised pedestrian and cyclist safety in favor of drivers. To complement these improvements, I look forward to congestion pricing and Albany authorizing more speed cameras and passing Sammy's Law (S.524A/ A4655), our legislation to allow the DOT to lower speed limits across the city.

Letter to Commission on Judicial Nomination

I spearheaded a letter, co-signed by fifteen of my colleagues, to the Commission on Judicial Nomination (the body charged with presenting a short list of Court of Appeals candidates to the Governor for nomination) urging the Commission to include candidates with diverse professional and cultural backgrounds in their short list for the seat that Judge Eugene Fahey will soon vacate. The Court of Appeals is the highest court in New York. For far too long, the membership of the court has primarily been career prosecutors, corporate lawyers, and jurists, with little representation of public defenders and civil legal services attorneys that have experience defending the rights of everyday New Yorkers.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits is a temporary federal food program to help families make up for school meals that were missed while students studied remotely. Families can expect \$820-1300 for the 2020-2021 school year, exact amounts will vary based on the number of days a student was learning remotely.

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Eligible New York residents who are behind on rent owed on or after March 13, 2020 can apply for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The program can cover up to 12 months of past due rent, 3 months of additional rental assistance, and up to 12 months of past due utility bills. To be eligible, you must have a household gross income at or below [80% of the Area Median Income](#). In Manhattan, this would be \$66,850 for a single person. There are no immigration status requirements to qualify for the program.

To apply, visit www.otda.ny.gov/erap. For questions about your application, call the ERAP helpline: 844-691-7368.

There are 3 organizations with staff members trained to provide assistance completing your application:

1. [Catholic Charities](#) at 888-744-7900 or cc.erap@catholiccharitiesny.org;
2. [Cooper Square Committee](#) at 212-228-8210 or csc@coopersquare.org; and
3. [University Settlement](#) at 332-233-7440 or erap@universitysettlement.org (for residents in zip codes 10002, 10003, 10009, or 10013).

Please call my office at 212-633-8052 if you need any further assistance.

Service: FREE Notary

It's getting harder to find notaries in the city. In response, I'm happy to offer my notary services for free to the community. If you are in need of notary services, please call me to make an appointment and I will personally notarize your documents. Proof of vaccination is required. Call 212-633-8052.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Visit <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/locations> and enter your zip code to view all vaccination sites. You can filter by vaccine type and walk-up availability. If you are doing a walk-up appointment be sure to check the hours of the site before you go!

There are mobile vans and pop-up sites providing vaccines throughout all 5 boroughs. Check this site to see the location and times for the coming week:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines.page#nycmobilevax>

You can still schedule your appointment, including one just for a second dose. Visit <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/> or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

You can also reschedule or cancel an appointment.

As of July 30, all New Yorkers who receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose at a New York City-run facility are eligible for a \$100 prepaid debit card. In addition to the \$100 gift card, there are other incentives offered by the city to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, including a Public Theater annual membership, two-week membership to Citibike, and Brooklyn Cyclones tickets. Head [here](#) to learn more about this program: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/vaccine-incentives.page>.

Vaccines for Children

COVID-19 Vaccines are now available for Children Ages 5 to 17!

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from COVID-19. With more contagious variants of the virus, more young people are getting COVID-19 and being hospitalized. Parents or guardians must give permission to get vaccinated and children ages 5 to 15 must have an adult with them. Children ages 5 to 17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, three weeks apart. Children are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose. You can still schedule your appointment, including one just for a second dose.

Visit <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/> or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Booster Shots

Now that the FDA has approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, eligible New Yorkers can now receive boosters.

Boosters are widely available across New York City. Head here to learn more about eligibility or to find a location for you to receive a booster: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>

Who is eligible for a booster shot?

The CDC recently recommended booster shots for a select group of people and these shots are now widely available across New York City.

Some people who received both doses of the **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot. To receive a booster shot, you must be one of the following:

- 65 or older
- People ages 18 to 64 who have an [underlying medical condition](#) or a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure due to their job (for example, health care workers) or where they live or frequently visit (for example, a homeless shelter)
- People living in a nursing home or other long-term care facility

Everyone 18+ who received **Johnson & Johnson** at least two months ago should get a booster.

Which booster should you get?

Those who are eligible for a booster and received Pfizer or Moderna can get a booster from any of the three brands, although it is recommended that they get a booster shot from the same brand.

Johnson & Johnson recipients can get any of the three brands as well, although limited data shows that a Moderna or Pfizer booster could offer more antibodies.

If you're not sure which booster to get, speak with your doctor.

Reminders:

- Adolescents ages 12 - 17 can only receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- You will need to bring proof of age and, if applicable, proof of consent for minors. Review this [list](#) of acceptable documents.
- At the vaccination site, you will receive a card with your name, date of birth, the vaccine you received, and the place and date you received it. Keep it in a safe place and make a photocopy or take a picture just in case you lose it. If you got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, bring the card with you when you go for your second shot. If you are fully vaccinated but lost your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or need verification of your vaccine status, you can [request a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record online](#). Vaccines are available at no cost to you and regardless of immigration status.
- The Excelsior Pass is a voluntary way to provide digital proof of vaccination on your smartphone. Businesses and entertainment venues can scan and validate the pass to ensure you meet any COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry. When using the pass, you'll be asked to show a photo ID that shows your name and birth date to verify identity. Visit <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03386> for more information about how to use the application.

COVID-19 Testing

When it comes to COVID-19, there is no such thing as over-testing. If you are vaccinated but experience symptoms, please get tested. Getting tested keeps all of us healthy and helps to identify hot spots and variants before they spread.

NYC Health + Hospitals offers free, walk-in testing throughout the five boroughs. Visit <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-testing-sites/> to view a schedule of locations and hours.

Assistance for New Yorkers Who Test Positive for COVID

The Test & Trace Corps will make sure that anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts will have the resources needed to safely separate in a hotel free of charge or at home to help prevent the spread of the virus. To request a hotel room or learn more about how to safely separate in a hotel or at home, call 1-212-COVID19 (212-268-4319). Speaking with the Test & Trace Corps will not change your ability to apply for permanent residency (or “green card”).

NYC Health + Hospitals has two Community Health Centers in the Bronx and Queens dedicated to those recovering from COVID-19. Both centers provide short and long-term follow-up care for those recovering from COVID-19. For appointments, call 1 (844) NYC-4-NYC or 1-844-692-4692. 24-hour access to a health care provider is available.

COVID-19 Funeral Reimbursements

FEMA will provide financial assistance to individuals with COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2021. Call the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line at 844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) to complete an application with help from FEMA's representatives. The line is open Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time and multilingual services are available. They are experiencing high call volume which is causing some technical issues, but please try again later if you get a busy signal or your call doesn't connect. There is no deadline to apply. Learn more on the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

IMPORTANT: FEMA has reported reports of scams involving offers to register individuals for funeral assistance. FEMA will not contact anyone until they have called FEMA or have applied for assistance. If there is doubt as to the legitimacy of the call, individuals should hang up and call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 or the National Center for Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 to report suspected fraud.

Emergency SNAP Allotments

Starting with the April SNAP benefit, all households, even those receiving the maximum SNAP allotment, will receive an emergency allotment. The supplement is being issued to households even if their SNAP case is currently closed. Further information is available here: <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions.asp>

You can check your available SNAP balance, including the emergency allotment at <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/ebt/>.

Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund.

Up to \$1,000 is available per household to reimburse out-of-pocket child or dependent care, transportation, lodging, and other qualifying expenses that eligible workers incurred while employed in New York State between March 1, 2020, through the date of application submission. Applications are now being accepted here: <https://pandemicfundny.smapply.org/>

Small Business Services Employment Assistance

The City's Department of Small Business Services has a new "Find A New Job" page, which lists open employment listings from across NYC.

Mental Health Resources

The pandemic has shown us that mental health care is more important than ever. I want to share some free, confidential resources that you can use or share with others:

- NY Project Hope: Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314.
- NYC Well: 1-888-NYC-WELL or text "WELL" to 65173. They also offer free access to digital mental health apps and a database of behavioral health and supporting services (substance use, housing, legal, social and community services) within the five boroughs.
- The Trevor Project is based in our district and operates a national 24-hour toll-free confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth. Call 1-866-488-7386 or text "START" to 678678.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text "LOVEIS" to 22522

**IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, QUESTIONS, OR CONCERNS, YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT ME
OR SAM VASQUEZ AT**

212-633-8052 OR VIA E-MAIL AT SVASQUEZ@NYSENATE.GOV

**YOU CAN EMAIL ME AT HOYLMAN@NYSENATE.GOV OR VISIT MY WEBSITE AT HOYLMAN.NYSENATE.GOV TO FIND COPIES
OF MY LETTERS, TESTIMONIES, AND PRESS RELEASES.**