



New York State Senator **BRAD HOYLMAN**



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REPORT TO COMMUNITY BOARD 6

In Memoriam: Richard Eggers

It is with a heavy heart that I write this board report for the first full board meeting since the passing of community leader, Richard Eggers. Rick was a long time Community Board Six member and former Board Chair. He always fought to do what he thought was right for his community. He will be remembered fondly.

Secure Ballot Box Bill Passes Senate

I am proud to announce that this week legislation I introduced to expand access to secure ballot drop boxes across the state passed in the Senate, along with a package of bills that will help ensure all New Yorkers are able to vote safely, conveniently, and securely. Throughout our nation, we are witnessing a massive, coordinated attack on voting rights in other states. In fact, over the last few years, more than 400 anti-voter bills have been introduced in 48 states – and more proposed daily. This deluge of anti-democracy legislation has made it harder for millions of Americans to have their voice heard in government. Here in New York, we are charting a different course. We are focused on making voting as accessible as possible, ensuring that every eligible voter has a clear and simple method to fulfill this most basic and sacred act of democracy. The elections package the Senate passed represents a significant step forward in providing full enfranchisement to New Yorkers.

Senate Passes Remote Option Extender for Community Boards, All Public Bodies

This week the Senate passed a bill to allow all public bodies to continue videoconference options for meetings for the duration of the state of emergency. With COVID-19 cases counts rising during Omicron, there is still uncertainty over when we will be able to safely gather in large numbers. This legislation allows public business to continue undeterred, while keeping everyone safe. I am proud to have supported this bill and have helped our community boards to continue meeting remotely for the duration of this pandemic. However, the benefits that we have experienced from remote meetings have been plentiful. Our democracy has become accessible to so many more New Yorkers and we are better for it. I believe that while we need this relief now, we should update our statutes to adapt to the technology we have available today. I have introduced legislation that would permanently allow community boards and certain other public bodies to use a remote option. I look forward to working to pass that bill as well to ensure we can continue to use this technology long after the pandemic has ended.



Senate Judiciary Confirmations

On Tuesday, I chaired a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee in which we considered the nomination of Justice Shirley Troutman to the Court of Appeals. After rigorous questioning from my colleagues and me, the Committee recommended her nomination to the Senate floor. On Wednesday, the Senate confirmed her historic nomination. She is Governor Hochul's first judicial nominee. She is just the second Black woman to serve on the Court of Appeals, and the only Black woman among the current justices. A long time jurist, Judge Troutman brings a valuable, progressive perspective to the Court that will be much appreciated.

Hearing on Good Cause Eviction Legislation

As the Senate Judiciary Committee Chair, I hosted a joint legislative hearing on S.3082 or Good Cause Eviction, with the Senate Committee on Housing, Construction, and Community Development, on Friday, January 7 at 10 a.m. The hearing lasted eight hours and we heard testimony from over 30 groups representing all views on the proposed eviction reform. The bill aims to protect tenants who do not live in rent stabilized or otherwise regulated units by providing limits on the ability of a landlord to evict a tenant without cause or to impose unreasonable rent increases to push a tenant out. Currently, if a tenant's lease expires in a non-regulated unit, or if a tenant does not have a lease, the landlord can generally evict that tenant for any reason or no reason at all, even if the tenant continues to pay rent and obey all the rules of the building. This bill would ensure that so long as a tenant is paying their rent and does not breach the terms of the lease or tenancy, they cannot be evicted. Furthermore, it would prohibit landlords from evicting a tenant for failure to pay an 'unreasonable' rent increase. The bill sets a presumptively acceptable rent increase at three percent or one and a half times the rate of inflation, whichever is higher. Landlords could still try to impose a higher rent increase, but they would have to prove why it is reasonable, such as because of a significant increase in taxes or repair and maintenance costs. The bill includes exemptions for small

owner-occupied buildings and cases where a landlord needs to recover a unit in a small or medium sized building for their own use or their family's use. The Committees will hear testimony from those in favor of and opposed to the legislation. If you wish to watch the recording or read any of the written testimony, they are available at [this link](#).

ERAP Alert

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) reopened their Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) portal for applications on January 10th. The link can be found here. While the state program is currently out of funds and waiting for additional assistance from the federal government, simply applying confers important eviction protections for tenants. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at hoyleman@nysenate.gov.



Clean Air Rally at Stuy Town

On December 16th, I joined fellow elected officials and residents of Stuy Town Peter Cooper Village to fight the proposed fossil fuel burning power plants that will poison the air of this community. Now is not the time to build new infrastructure that will poison our air and speed up climate change.

Meeting with Mayor on Schools

Today, I joined a discussion for elected officials with Mayor Eric Adams about how to ensure schools remain safe, educational, and enriching environments for students as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful to the Mayor for listening and for taking the time to speak with us about ensuring all of our City's children can be successful at school in the face of these unprecedented challenges. I look forward to continuing the conversation with the Mayor, my colleagues, and constituents.

Survivors One Step Closer to Justice

In the first full week of the legislative session, my colleagues and I passed The Adult Survivors Act (S.66/A.648) out of the Judiciary committee. This bill is one of my top priorities and I was proud to have it pass unanimously in the Senate last legislative session. I look forward to passing my bill as quickly as possible to secure survivors their day in court.

State of the State Address

Last week, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her 2022 State of the State address today, virtually, in the Assembly chamber. It is interesting to note that the State of the State speech has returned to the legislative chambers where it was presented for the previous 150+ years before Governor Hochul's predecessor moved it out of the Capitol building presumably to accommodate his supporters and other members of the private sector. You can view a recording of the Governor's speech at governor.ny.gov.

Happy New Year

As the State Legislature recently commenced our new session, I remain honored to represent the East Side of Manhattan in Albany. With that in mind, I wanted to update you on bills of mine recently signed into law by the Governor, as well as several new bills that I've introduced:

My Legislation Recently Signed into Law

- **S.7093-** On December 31, the Governor signed my bill reforming New York's rules of evidence to match the federal rules more closely. This change allows the admission of a statement by an opposing party's agent or employee if the statement is within that person's scope of employment. This change will ensure courts and juries get the full story in our civil trials, promoting the true administration of justice.
- **S.689-** On December 29, the Governor signed my bill that guarantees the right to a jury trial for any New Yorker facing imprisonment. Prior to this bill, New Yorkers throughout the state except in New York City had the right to a jury trial for any misdemeanor or felony, but the law had a discriminatory exception for those facing trial in New York City if the maximum sentence was six months or less. We have corrected this injustice and ensured that all New Yorkers have access to a full and fair jury trial.
- **S.70A-** December 22, the Governor signed my bill, the Hate Crimes Analysis and Review Act, which will direct state agencies to collect demographic data about hate crime perpetrators and victims. This data, which has not been collected before, will help us better target services to victims of hate crimes and to implement prevention and intervention policies to stop hate crimes from occurring in the first place.
- **S.4716A-** Additionally on December 22, the Governor signed my bill requiring the implementation of language translation technology on all state agency websites, with an expedited implementation on sites containing COVID-19 related information. This will help all our neighbors access vital government services and information in a cost-effective manner.

My New Legislation

- **S.7609-** On December 17th, I introduced legislation to stop the flow of money to criminal landlords like Steve Croman. The bill will prevent state-chartered banks from lending to landlords who have previously been convicted of tenant harassment, fraud relating to acting as a landlord, or were required to enter into a consent agreement and divest themselves of residential rental properties.
- **S.7601-** On December 15th, I introduced legislation to ban the sale to minors of a chemical, normally used for curing meats but is also an increasingly popular method for teenagers and others to attempt suicide with. The New York Times recently highlighted the issue with this chemical in its expose of a notorious website that promotes and encourages people to commit suicide.

- **S. 7574-** On December 8, I introduced legislation to stop exclusionary zoning policies in New York and allow the construction of up to four-family dwellings on all residential lots in cities and two-family dwellings in villages. The bill will also prevent the establishment of unnecessarily large minimum lot sizes in all types of municipalities that serve to push up the price of housing and keep low- and middle-income New Yorkers out of neighborhoods. This bill will enable the construction of “missing middle” housing throughout the state that will help to end our affordable housing crisis.
- **S.7575-** Additionally on December 8, I introduced legislation to provide transparency into attorney disciplinary proceedings. Currently, these proceedings and complaints are sealed unless the charge is sustained, even when the attorney at issue is a public servant, like a district attorney. In 2020, we repealed the notorious 50-a law that shielded police disciplinary records. With this bill, we can ensure there is full transparency with all law enforcement officials.

Penn Station Homelessness Roundtable

I recently met with over 20 homelessness service providers, local elected colleagues, Community Board 4 and 5 and Empire State Development (ESD) to discuss the homelessness crisis in and around Penn Station and how we might use the Penn Redevelopment Project to address this crisis at its epicenter. I was proud to have worked with ESD to convene this meeting of stakeholders and look forward to continuing this critical discussion with local stakeholders.

Reopening Midtown Community Court

Last month, along with my colleagues former Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Assemblymember Gottfried, I sent a letter urging the Office of Court Administration to prioritize the reopening of Midtown Community Court (MCC) and to expedite the hiring of any and all staff necessary in order to do so. Given the increase in overdose deaths and the significant challenges in Midtown over the last year, it is critical that MCC resumes its restorative and lifesaving work. If MCC were open, the NYPD could directly adjourn cases to MCC’s courthouse for arraignment where their skilled resource coordinator, and clinic team could immediately engage with people in need of services, as they normally would.

Homeowners Assistance Fund Application Opens

On Monday, the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal opened the long-awaited Homeowners Assistance Fund. The New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program dedicated to homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement as a result of financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The website for this

fund is [here](#). If you have any questions or need additional help, please contact my office at 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov

Delivery of At-Home PCR Tests from New York State

Late last year, state officials announced they are developing a plan for delivery of at-home PCR tests. An online portal through which New Yorkers can request tests will be set up in the near future, and my office will work to inform constituents as more details are released.

Supporting the New York Public Library

In late December I, along with my colleagues from the Senate and Assembly Libraries committees, met with New York Public Library Staff and toured the new Polansky Exhibit at the main branch on 42nd Street. We discussed the vital role the NYPL has played for many families throughout the pandemic and how we can continue to support their work from Albany.

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.

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).

Booster Shots

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:

- 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

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.

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: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>

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
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**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.**