



COUNCIL MEMBER

JULIE

MENIN

[March 2022] Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

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Highlights

1. First Small Business Committee Hearing on Monday 3/7

This week, the Council Member presided over her first hearing as Chair of the Council's Small Business Committee. The hearing covered the response of the Department of Small Business Services to the COVID-19 pandemic. She asked questions of Small Business Commissioner Kevin Kim, and heard testimony from small business owners, BID leaders, and community advocates. The hearing featured an exceptionally strong turnout from small business owners offering a diverse range of perspectives of their experiences during the last two years. [You can watch a recording here.](#)

2. First Bill Introduced in the Council

On February 24, the Council Member introduced her first piece of legislation, Intro 55, which will require the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (the operator of NYC's 311 system) to track COVID-19 testing site complaints on the 311 website and mobile application. This will allow New Yorkers to see what's happening at each COVID-19 testing location and avoid disingenuous locations. For example, our office has received many complaints about PacGenomics' COVID testing sites. Constituents reported false and misleading advertising, an issue that our office has worked to remedy by issuing a cease and desist letter to the company.

3. Regulating 15 minute Delivery Companies

15 minute delivery companies such as GoPuff and Gorillas are effectively operating warehouses in our neighborhoods which cause serious safety risks to pedestrians and negatively affect the quality of life. Our office has received a multitude of complaints about the practices of delivery workers from these companies who are violating traffic laws in order to comply with the promise of 15 minute delivery times. The Council Member wrote a letter to GoPuff asking them to cease and desist with these unsafe practices: by promising 15 minute delivery they are prioritizing a consumer guarantee over the safety of pedestrians. She is also working with colleagues to investigate the legality of these companies with regards to the status of their warehouses within the zoning code.

4. Get Sanitation Done Rally

Last Wednesday, the Council Member joined her colleagues on the City Council's Sanitation Committee and others to participate in a Get Sanitation Done rally. At the rally, she talked about some of the ideas she supports to help clean up our streets including containerized waste, composting, and fully restoring funding to the Department of Sanitation. During a time with so many concerns about dirty streets, it is imperative that we keep up funding for DSNY. This is the issue she continues to hear the most from constituents about. Please continue sending your concerns to district5@council.nyc.gov.

5. DOT Walkthrough

On February 23, the Council Member conducted a walkthrough with Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez. She met the Commissioner on 57th and 1st Avenue, the site of a deadly traffic crash this summer and they walked up First Avenue to examine intersections. After the walkthrough, the Council Member submitted a list of 44 intersections within the 5th Council District that she would like the Department of Transportation to redesign. Our city faces a traffic safety crisis and she is working hard to recommit to Vision Zero and reduce traffic injuries and fatalities.