

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, APRIL 2022

Dear neighbor,

Over the weekend, we passed this year's budget. There are some exciting victories, which I go into more detail about below. Unfortunately, last minute changes to the bail reform law which will send more people to Rikers Island where 16 New Yorkers died last year. Pre-trial detention does not equate to more public safety. As the Mayor's [own data](#) shows, New Yorkers released pre-trial are not the driving force between an increase in crime. Based on that reality, these changes don't make sense.

Read more below for information on events happening in the district, as well as a summary of the 2022-23 budget.

Harvey

Budget Update

We won some important victories in the budget, but we still have to keep fighting, especially on the criminal justice front. In addition to winning our fights to extract the Governor's wasteful 421-a developer giveaway as well as mayoral control of schools from the budget, we also delivered in the following areas:

Childcare

The SFY 2022-23 Budget makes critical investments in childcare to help make it more affordable for New York families by increasing eligibility for subsidies up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. It would also increase market rate reimbursement at 80 percent and would provide stabilization

grants including funds for wages and other provider needs. Unfortunately undocumented Children were excluded.

Education

This year's budget includes an historic \$31.2 billion in School Aid, and \$21.3 billion in Foundation Aid. It also includes \$1.1 billion for Universal Prekindergarten.

Higher Education

The approved SFY 2022-23 Budget includes \$48.8 million for SUNY and \$59.6 million for CUNY to fully reimburse each system and accelerate the planned elimination of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap by two years. Many New York students and families rely on grants and scholarships as they consider how to afford higher education options. The enacted budget includes \$150 million to expand TAP eligibility to 75,000 additional part-time students and \$5 million to restore TAP eligibility for incarcerated individuals. Finally, the enacted budget extends \$2 million in funding to support students with disabilities.

Rental & Housing Arrears

This budget makes critical investments in rent and homeownership relief to help New Yorkers stay in their homes, including \$1.1 billion in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP), as well as \$250 million for a utility arrears program, to be administered by the Department of Public Service.

This budget also allocates \$350 million in capital for NYCHA, which is the greatest single investment by the state in the last 20 years.

Environment

The Budget authorizes an additional \$1.2 billion for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, bringing the total investment to \$4.2 billion. In addition to the Bond Act, the Budget contains a record \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund to support climate change mitigation projects, improve agricultural resources, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities for all New Yorkers. The enacted budget also includes \$2 million for municipal composting projects to help drive down greenhouse gas emissions caused by food scraps rotting in landfills.

Lastly, I want to applaud Speaker Heastie for standing up and fighting for facts and against fear. Unfortunately, politics have overtaken policy this year. In combination with the resurgence of failed broken windows policing in New York City the last minute changes to the historically successful bail reform law are going to put more people in jail. These changes will disproportionately impact low income people of color. This is a moral and policy failure that will senselessly spend public dollars on incarcerating poor people. While there is so much good in this budget, the rollbacks to the bail law come up short for New Yorkers.

Straus InterAgency Safety Meeting

On Thursday April 7th, my team organized an InterAgency safety meeting for the tenants of NYCHA Straus Houses. About a month ago, I visited the tenant association at Straus Houses to host mobile

office hours and provide support for tenants where I learned of safety issues that have concerned residents.

As a follow up to that event, we brought in multiple city agencies to come up with creative next steps on addressing violence. Agencies present at the meeting included the 13th Precinct, NYCHA, the Department of Homeless Services, the Administration for Children Services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Manhattan DA's office, and the offices of Council Member Rivera, Senator Hoylman, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. My office will continue to monitor safety issues at Straus.

Walkthrough with the 13th Precinct

My office has been monitoring sidewalk and accessibility issues outside of the 13th Precinct and at the bus stop on 3rd Avenue and 21st Street. My team met with Deputy Inspector Figueroa and his team, Community Board 6, Senator Hoylman's office, and Council Member Rivera's office to discuss various ADA compliance issues on the sidewalk coming from other law enforcement vehicles in which the 13th precinct has been monitoring. Our offices also monitored issues with curb access for the M101, 102 and 103 buses at the northbound bus stop. We will be following up with the NYC Department of Transportation and NYC Transit Authority.

LES Ecology Center Earth Month Events - Throughout April

Earth Day Initiative Thursday, April 21, 12 - 7 PM Join us as we convene at Union Square for our Earth Day 2022 event, which will provide a valuable space for the climate and environmental communities to connect with the public, meet and learn from one another, and bring new people into the movement. [To learn more, click here.](#)

Compost By Bike: An Earth Day Community Ride Saturday, April 23, 9:30 AM Join us for a 12-mile composting community ride from Harlem through Central Park to the East Village! In celebration of Earth Day, we'll show you how NYC's food scraps get recycled on a local level at 4 community composting sites. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)

Cooking with Food Scraps Virtual Workshop Thursday, April 28, 6 - 7:30 PM Join Lower East Side Ecology Center and the Mulberry Street Library for this virtual workshop where you will learn how to reduce your kitchen waste by turning food scraps into easy and delicious recipes in the kitchen. We will also learn more about food waste and how community composting is a sustainable solution to the environmental harms of landfill food waste. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)

Nature City Challenge - Seward Park Sunday, May 1, 10:30 AM Join the Lower East Side Ecology Center and the Seward Park Conservancy to document species at Seward Park during the Nature City Challenge. The annual City Nature Challenge is encouraging all New Yorkers to help make as many iNaturalist observations as we can to document the city's biodiversity. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)

Live Guided Birding Tour at Corlears Hook Park Saturday, April 30, 8 - 10 AM Join us to observe the many species of birds stopping by Corlears Hook Park. Bring binoculars and a camera if you have them. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)



E-Waste Events All events are held from **10 AM to 2 PM - rain or shine, unless otherwise noted**

- 4/23/22 — [Maspeth \(Federal Savings Bank\)](#) *12 - 4PM
- 4/24/22 — [Park Slope \(John Jay Educational Campus\)](#)
- 4/30/22 — [Financial District \(Fulton Street b/w Ryders Alley & Cliff St\)](#)
- 5/01/22 — [Brooklyn Heights \(First Unitarian Congregational Society\)](#)

Please check our [FAQs](#) to see what we do and don't accept and our [calendar page](#) for additional events.

Salsa Not War - 4/23 @ 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM


A DANCE BENEFIT FOR THE UKRAINE REFUGEE RELIEF
HOSTED BY DAISY PAEZ, DISTRICT LEADER AD 65 PART B
ANTHONY FELCIANO, STATE COMMITTEE PERSON 74TH AD
ANDREA GORDILLO, COALITION FOR A DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE
AND DAVID GALARZA



**¡SALSA,
NOT WAR!**

**Performances By
Johnny Rodriguez and the Dream Team,
Pete Nater & Associates and DJ Mario**

LOCATION: MANNY CANTOR CENTER
197 E BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10002
DATE: APRIL 23RD 2022
TIME: 4 - 7PM
SUGGESTED PRICE AT DOOR
\$25 CASH OR CHECK



Refreshments Provided By The Cabin NYC and The Roost Cafe
Equipment Provided By Zambrana Productions

Special Guests Include Representatives Carlina Rivera, Christopher Marte, Harvey Epstein,
Jumaane Williams, Mark Levine, Nydia Velázquez and New Downtown Dems

See flyer for details.

UPCOMING TIME'S UP! EVENTS - April through June

The weather is starting to get warmer so Time's Up Environmental Organization will start to increase our outdoor events, workshops, bike rides and campaigns. If you would like to help in any way contact us at timesup.events@gmail.com. We are especially looking for ride leaders and bicycle mechanics. Environmental awareness, cycling and sustainable urban design continue to increase in NYC and beyond. Let's continue to work together to continue this positive, sustainable change.

BIKE RIDE AND RALLY FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Saturday, April 9. 12pm

Start at Bellevue Hospital (462 1st Ave. Between 26th and 28th St) on bike

Bike ride and rally for universal healthcare. Come join this healthy bike ride and help change the system to provide healthcare for all. We will end at Lincoln Hospital with speakers and refreshments for all.

COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEER DAYS

Come Join Time's Up! and local communities as we help cultivate these beautiful community gardens (the below three gardens):

1) GREEN OASIS COMMUNITY GARDEN

8th St between Ave C & D

1st Sunday of each month

Sunday, April 3rd at 12pm

Sunday, May 1st at 12pm

Sunday, June 5 at 12pm

Come learn about composting and how to repurpose organic waste and turn it into quality soil at this easy-going and informative workshop.

2) LA PLAZA COMMUNITY GARDEN

SW corner 9th St & Ave C

2nd Saturday of each month

Saturday, April 9th at 12pm

Saturday, May 14th at 12pm

3) CARMEN'S GARDEN

117 Avenue C, between 7th & 8th Streets

3rd Saturday of each month

Saturday, April 16th at 12pm

Saturday, May 21st at 12pm

Saturday, June 18th at 12pm

Come Join Time's Up! and local communities as we help cultivate these beautiful community gardens.

HONEY BEE WORKSHOP

Saturday May 28 at 12pm. Saturday June 11th at 12pm

Green Oasis Community Garden, 8th St between Avenues C and D NYC

Come learn the basics of beekeeping for city honey bees and their importance to the urban environment. From pollination to good tasting honey, learn from bee expert Dan Rothschild of City Bees and Peas.

FIX YOUR OWN BIKE WORKSHOP

Time's Up! Brooklyn Space 99 South 6th St, Brooklyn (under the Williamsburg Bridge)

Sundays & Wednesdays, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Open shop - you use our tools and stands to work on your bike. Experienced mechanics will be present to answer questions but you do the work. Bike workshops are free but we strongly encourage you to make a donation or become a Time's Up member to help support our efforts. If you have a big project in mind please be considerate of the time and plan ahead.

TRACKING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER LINES

(East Village Walking Tour with Green Map)

Sunday May 8th, 4pm

Meet @ the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (155 Ave C)

Learn about the impact of water on a frontline community over time during this Jane's Walk brought to you in conjunction with Green Map NYC, Interference Archive and LES Breathe. Track the subterranean streams that crossed the historical salt marsh around Avenue C and visit nearby installed and planned green infrastructure.

PROSPECT PARK MOONLIGHT BIKE RIDE

Grand Army Plaza Entrance to Prospect Park, Brooklyn

Saturday, May 28th. 7:15pm

Saturday, June 25th. 7:15pm

Meets the fourth Saturday of every month at 7:15pm at Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Discover Prospect Park at night with a peaceful ride that visits the park's little-known treasures. Bicycle lights are recommended.

FULL MOON CELEBRATION

Sunday night, May 15th. 8pm

La Plaza Community Garden, SW corner of 9th St & Ave C

Celebrate the light of the full moon in La Plaza. Pause and be guided into unconscious bliss under the healing light of the moon with a meditation. Then reconnect sonically with ourselves and the planet. Get up and move with the moon in a moon circle of healing, sounds and higher consciousness. Release your limitations and step into nature.

CRITICAL MASS - MANHATTAN

Last Friday of the Month, 7pm

Union Square Park-North

This Critical Mass bike ride will be a celebration of future renewable energy and non-polluting transportation. Critical Mass meets the last Friday of every month in over 200 cities around the world. NYC's Critical Mass and group bike rides increased bike riding and created the sustainable, safe infrastructure that we now enjoy today in NYC.

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 or call us at 212-979-9696