



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JULIE MENIN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 5TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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

Full Newsletter: [\[Newsletter\]](#) →

Highlights

1. Participatory Budgeting

Our participatory budgeting has been a great success so far with 1,500 votes cast and counted so far. It has been such a great week for the Council Member traveling around the District and talking to constituents about their priorities and which PB projects resonated with them. [As Patch reports](#), we have a wide range of projects on the ballot up for \$1 million from our office in the City budget. We will announce the winners and the projects that we will fund in a press release soon.

2. Inauguration Last Weekend

Last Sunday, the Council Member had her Inauguration at the 92nd Street Y. She was sworn in by Senate Majority Leader Schumer and among friends, family, and colleagues. As [Upper East Site](#) reported, we were joined by the Mayor, the Speaker, many state and federal officials, as well as a large number of her Council colleagues. Thanks to everyone who joined us on Sunday!

3. M/WBE Small Business Hearing

At 10:30am on Monday, April 4, the Council Member co-chaired a joint hearing between the Small Business Committee, the Contracts Committee, and the Subcommittee on COVID recovery and resiliency. They conducted an oversight hearing on the impact of COVID on Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs). They also heard legislation regarding a change to data collection on such businesses. COVID has devastated communities of color in our city, and it is vital to see what work SBS is now doing to empower businesses in those communities and ensure there is genuine equity in our city's M/WBE program.

4. Queensboro Bridge Bike Lane Closure:

This week, the DOT announced the intermittent closure of the south outer roadway for bikes and pedestrians as part of the Queensboro Bridge Upper Deck replacement construction. Closing off the bridge to anyone but cars for any period of time is unacceptable, especially when DOT gave almost no advance notice. [As Patch Reported](#), our office is working with Council Member Julie Won to oversee this project and ensure DOT can get this done quickly to bring a viable bike lane to the bridge. We look forward to making the bridge safer for bikes and pedestrians.

5. Make the Road Childcare Rally

On Thursday, March 31, the Council Member joined Make the Road for a rally in support of Universal Childcare in New York. This is a top priority for the Council Member, and a resolution that she put forth in the Council calling for that has now accrued support from a majority of her colleagues. As our city comes back from the pandemic, affordable childcare is a critical pillar in the economic recovery. [You can view some of the Council Member's remarks here.](#)

6. Safer Streets Home Rule

Last Friday, the Council Member joined Mayor Adams in Brooklyn to call upon home rule for traffic safety issues in NYC. Currently, NYC's red light camera and speed camera program are controlled by the Legislature in Albany—not by the city government. Our city must have the authority to execute these programs and keep our streets safe. Under State laws, the cameras are turned off too frequently and this is contributing to a crisis of traffic violence in our city. You can find the Council Member's quote [here](#) in the Mayor's press release.

7. Ukraine Freedom Square

Last Friday, April 1, the Council Member joined her colleagues in state and federal government announcing the formation of the East Side Freedom Square Coalition to stand with Ukraine. She stood with Ukrainian diplomatic and cultural officials in NYC and encouraged donations in support of humanitarian relief efforts. The Coalition will hold a rally to show solidarity with Ukraine on Monday, April 18, in Carl Schurz Park at 5:30pm. Please stay tuned for more details on this.