



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JULIE MENIN



June 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

1. This month, Julie introduced 5 bills in the Council to bring universal childcare to New York City. The city is in the midst of a childcare crisis: a recent study estimated that 93% of families with young children cannot afford center-based care for their infants and toddlers, and 80% cannot afford somewhat less expensive home-based care. It is critical to make childcare more equitable and affordable. Julie was thrilled to take action on this with the many other women on this historic majority-women City Council. Lack of childcare access is a gender equality issue in addition to being a human rights issue as women are disproportionately affected by this and are pushed out of the workforce.
2. The nation is currently facing an infant formula supply shortage so Julie worked with her Council colleagues to take immediate action. Julie drafted a letter to Mayor Adams, with her colleague Council Member Lynn Schulman, advocating for two critical policies. 28 of the 31 women on the City Council ultimately signed onto the letter. First, they requested a suspension of procurement to allow the City to address the supply shortage head on. Second, they requested that the city send inspectors out to combat rampant price gouging. In response, Mayor Adams issued an executive order increasing City price gouging enforcement efforts.
3. In January, New York City faced a devastating tragedy with 17 people dying at the Twin Parks Fire in the Bronx. Sadly, much of the devastation could have been prevented as self-closing doors in the building malfunctioned. Julie was proud to co-sponsor a package of fire safety bills and she recently joined Mayor Adams and many of her colleagues as he signed the fire safety bills into law. The legislation will bolster inspections and penalties regarding malfunctioning self-closing doors while also targeting defective space heaters. This was a critical piece of legislation in making our city safer.
4. Over the past few months, Julie has received countless complaints from constituents about the inability to report 311 and 911 issues with the East River Esplanade as a location. This is a major safety and quality of life problem especially as security cameras funded in 2018 for the Esplanade have still not been installed. Julie wrote a letter to the City's Chief Technology Officer requesting that the 311 and 911 system incorporate the Esplanade as a location where complaints can be routed. Julie will be strongly advocating for this going forward and look forward to fighting for our Esplanade.

5. District 5 ranks 47th out of 51 in NYC when it comes to green space yet it is also one of the densest districts. While Julie has already helped expand the community garden on 98th street, last week she worked to address the broader green space issues with new legislation. She introduced legislation with her colleagues that would allow for non-for-profit organizations to register with the Parks Department and become community gardens. By creating this new pathway, this will hopefully pave the way for more gardens across the city.

6. In June the Council enters the heat of budget season. Julie has sat in many Executive Budget Hearings asking questions about spending on critical programs related to a wide range of city services. In addition to this advocacy, she also co-chaired the Executive Budget Hearing for SBS. During the hearing, she made a strong push for robust funding for workforce development centers, business improvement districts, and minority and women-owned business enterprises. Over the next month Julie and her colleagues will fight hard to ensure that this year's budget helps New York enroute to a strong recovery.

7. With the summer approaching, our office has been hosting a multitude of fun community programs. Most notably coming up, there are two more tango sessions in Carl Schurz (Wednesdays June 8th and 15th from 5-7pm) and a movie night in Twenty Four Sycamores Park on East 60th and York ave on Wednesday June 15th from 8:30-10:30pm.