



THE OFFICE OF
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

MARK LEVINE

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's June 8, 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

COVID-19 Update:

There is some good news on COVID-19 in NYC. There have been signs that we are coming off the peak of the current wave. However, despite the positive trend there are still 4000+ covid cases, and approximately 100 hospitalizations, every day in NYC. It remains important that you protect yourself. Current guidance from Health Dept may be found at nyc.gov/covidalert:

“The New York City Health Commissioner now advises all New Yorkers to wear a mask in any public indoor setting. People who are older than 65 or otherwise at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should also wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings and avoid gatherings when possible. These heightened precautions will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep more New Yorkers out of the hospital while community spread of COVID-19 remains high.”

Reporting Results of at-home COVID-19 Tests:

Although there is still no way to officially report the results of at-home COVID-19 tests in NYC, you can report results and symptoms (for flu too) and see trends at outbreaksnearme.org.

Proposed Legislation to Temporarily Suspend the Commercial Rent Tax:

Storefront businesses in Manhattan have been hit brutally hard over the past two-and-a-half years and many are hanging on by a thread. Manhattan Borough

President Levine and Council Member Keith Powers have proposed legislation, Int. No. 497, to temporarily suspend the commercial rent tax. Text of the proposed legislation may be found [here](#).

Right to Counsel Fight:

New York City needs action ASAP to ensure right to counsel is fulfilled for all tenants facing eviction. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Manhattan Borough President Levine continue to call on courts to slow the calendaring of eviction cases, for the New York City Human Resources Administration to evaluate all tenants for grants aid, and for the City to fully fund tenant outreach as required by law. Details on the plan may be found [here](#).

Legislation Requiring Pest Management for Major Construction Projects:

Manhattan Borough President Levine and City Council Member Erik Bottcher have proposed legislation, Int. No. 442, to require applicants for some construction permits to confirm that they have employed a pest management professional for their projects. Text of the proposed legislation may be found [here](#).

Open Meetings Law Update:

Governor Hochul has extended the Emergency Order through June 14th, and just last week Mayor Adams extended the City's Emergency Order through June 27th. This suspends in-person requirements of Open Meetings Law through that date. The Manhattan Borough President's Office has been working to get community boards the guidance and clarity needed to proceed with planning. As a reminder, community boards may require masking and 3ft distancing at in-person meetings. This was unclear in the past, but the Borough President's office pushed the Law Department to provide clarity. Assuming the emergency orders end on June 27 for both the City and State, boards would be expected to be back in person unless they have held a public hearing and passed a resolution on hybrid rules. The Borough President's Office continues to push for additional funding for community boards to help them conduct hybrid meetings.

Speed Camera Legislation:

New York State will now allow speed cameras to run 24/7 across the city. Two weeks ago, Manhattan Borough President Levine joined New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and Transportation Alternatives Executive Director Danny Harris at the site of the crash that killed a 21-year-old NYU student to call on lawmakers in Albany to hand over control of the city's red light and speed cameras so that it may operate them 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Proposed Public Restroom Legislation:

Earlier this month, Manhattan Borough President Levine and Council Member Rita Joseph reintroduced Int. No. 258 in the City Council, which would require the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks and Recreation to work with community boards and to publish a report on feasible locations for at least one public restroom in every city ZIP code. Text of the proposed legislation may be found [here](#).