

# New York State Senator **BRAD HOYLMAN**

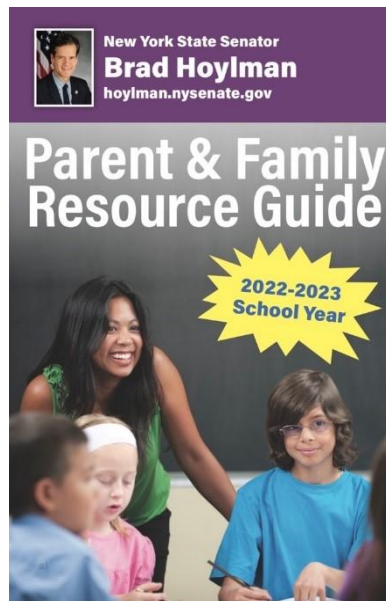


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## **REPORT TO COMMUNITY BOARD 6**



### **Welcome Back To School**

I hope you and your family had a restful summer break and those with children are prepared for the new school year. As a dad with two daughters myself, I know how hectic the back-to-school season can be, which is why we put together our annual Parent and Family Resource Guide compiling important services, contacts, and other resources that you might need this school year. Feel free to reach out to me if you'd like a copy at 212-633-8052 or [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov). (If you have suggestions for additional resources we haven't listed, I'd be eager to hear them!) I'm also pleased to announce that Governor Hochul signed legislation on September 8 that I supported mandating lower class size in New York City public schools.

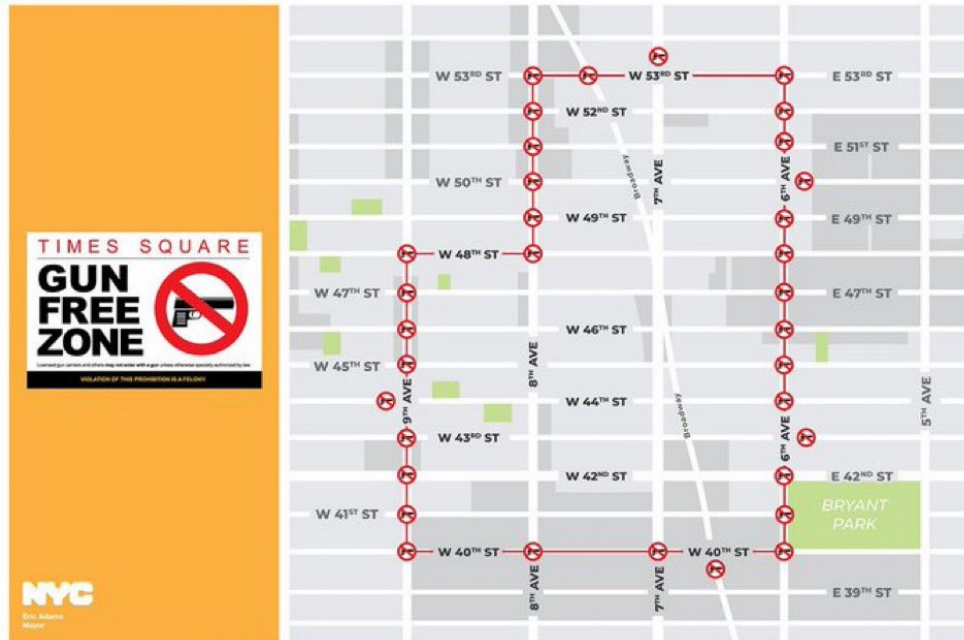
### **Fighting for Waterside Tenants**

On September 8, I joined Assembly Member Epstein, Council Member Powers, and representatives from New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development in meeting with the Waterside Tenants' Association and new owners Brookfield Properties to address ongoing maintenance issues at the complex. We discussed the shortage of maintenance workers, communications between the owners and tenants, and Brookfield's plan for catching up on maintenance backlogs. Brookfield will hire at least five new building staff and implement a 60-day plan to make meaningful progress on repairs.

### **Championing New Legislation**

Even though we're out of session, my colleagues and I work year-round to develop legislation that will improve our community. Here are just a few of the bills I've recently introduced and hope to pass next session:

- **Vehicle Safety Technology** ([S.9528](#)) - Requires new vehicles to have advanced safety technology standards, such as Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), which helps limit speeding. The bill also requires new safety standards to ensure the direct visibility of pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users from the driver's position. Read more [here](#).
- **Federal Money for Violence Prevention Programs** ([S.9539](#)) - Allows federal aid for violence prevention programs and helps reduce crime. With our legislation, hospitals in partnership with community violence prevention programs would receive federal support to not only treat their patients' immediate injuries, but also help prevent their future physical and mental harm. Read more [here](#).
- **Tax-Free Debt Forgiveness Act** - Exempts federal student loan forgiveness from state taxation, which will save half a million New Yorkers hundreds of dollars each. New York State shouldn't receive a windfall on the backs of low and middle-income student borrowers. Read more [here](#).
- **Eliminating Corporeal Punishment in Schools** - Codifies New York's regulation against corporal punishment in public schools and extends them into private schools. A recent [New York Times](#) investigation found that over the last five years, the NYPD has investigated more than a dozen claims of child abuse at Hasidic schools, to which this bill would put an end.



### Success in Making Times Square a Gun Free Zone

Keeping New Yorkers safe from gun violence is a top public policy concern. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision invalidating New York’s handgun licensing law, I’m proud to have successfully advocated for Times Square to be declared a “gun free zone” (pictured above) where concealed weapons will not be permitted. On September 1, this designation as a gun-free zone officially took effect in conjunction with a hearing this week by the NYC Council. Watch the hearing [here](#).



### **Fighting Chopper Noise**

August 16, I appeared on stage at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park to request theatergoers to contact Governor Hochul and urged her to sign our "[Stop the Chop](#)" Act with Assemblymember Gottfried, which would empower the NYS Attorney General and New Yorkers to file nuisance claims against tourist helicopters responsible for numerous quality of life complaints on the Manhattan's West Side. The bill awaits the Governor's signature. Do your part by calling the Governor's office at 518-474-8390 or leave a message on [her website here](#).

### **Advocating for Congestion Pricing**

Longtime champions of congestion pricing, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and I submitted [joint testimony](#) to the state's transportation authorities. Congestion pricing will improve our environment, road safety, MTA ridership, and health conditions - but the state must create a system of deferred payments for New Yorkers that qualify for the congestion pricing exemption to ensure low income residents will not be disproportionately harmed.

### **Creating New Credit Card Code for Gun Purchases**

On August 22, I co-signed [a letter](#) with state government officials calling on Mastercard and American Express to create a new merchant category code for gun ammunition and retail outlets, which would make it easier to track suspicious firearm spending and reduce gun violence. The creation of a new code would help financial institutions detect and report suspect activity - such as unusually large purchases of firearms or ammunition, or purchases from multiple stores - that may be used for criminal purposes.

### **Stopping Unlicensed Cannabis Shops**

I wrote [a letter](#) along with my government colleagues calling on the City Administration to stop unlicensed cannabis shops that are expanding across our district from selling unregulated products. No person or entity has been awarded a recreational license to sell in New York State. These stores and trucks are deceptive to consumers, hazardous to public health, cheating on their taxes, undermining the State's equity-based and legal cannabis rollout, and have little incentive to inspect IDs to ensure they are not selling to minors. I am also a co-sponsor of legislation ([S.9452](#)) that would expand the authority for the New York Office of Cannabis Management to seize illicit marijuana and for the state Department of Taxation and Finance to penalize people allegedly selling cannabis illegally.





### **Rallying for Fashion Workers' Basic Rights**

The best look this New York Fashion Week is treating fashion workers properly and compensating them fairly. I rallied with the Model Alliance, supermodel Karen Elson, and model- and survivor- advocates on September 12 to advocate for fashion workers to have basic worker protections. To keep this industry sustainable and become non-exploitative, we must pass our Fashion Workers Act ([S.8638A](#)). The bill ensures management companies pay models and creatives within 45 days of completing a job, caps their fees at 20 percent, and prevents retaliation against creatives and models who file complaints against their managers.



### **Helping Asylum Seekers in Our District**

Thank you to all who donated to our city-wide asylum seekers drive in conjunction with the New York Immigration Coalition. These donations will help the hundreds of asylum seekers relocated to our district, many of whom have young children. If you still wish to donate, call me at 212-633-8062.

### **Diversifying New York's Top Court**

On September 6, as Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I wrote [a letter](#) with 19 of my Senate colleagues to the Commission on Judicial Nomination urging them to present a diverse list of candidates to Governor Hochul for appointment to the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court. The commission is responsible for accepting applications, conducting interviews, and presenting a list of at least seven potential nominees to the governor, who will nominate a candidate to be confirmed by the senate. Our letter calls for professional and demographic diversity, with candidates wholly committed to advancing impartial justice for all. Learn more about our letter [here](#).

### **Calling for Midtown Community Court to be Reopened**

Early in September, I sent [a letter](#) with my colleagues in government to Acting Chief Judge Anthony Cannataro and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks to request a concrete plan to reopen Midtown Community Court (MCC) to its pre-pandemic full capacity. MCC is one of the country's first problem-solving courts and is currently open for court operations only one day a week. The limited facility

operating hours have hamstrung individuals' ability to access support and services as they move through the criminal justice system. I held a press conference last month on the issue with my colleagues.

## **Community Resources**

### **Second Doses of Monkeypox Vaccine Now Available**

As of September 1, second doses of the monkeypox vaccine are available by appointment only. People who received their first dose at least 10 weeks earlier will be notified by email or text that they are eligible for their second doses so that they can make appointments online or by phone. The City will also begin welcoming walk-ins for first doses at City-run sites, though making an appointment in advance is still recommended. The vaccine is also now open to sex workers. Please [see the NYC Department of Health](#) website here for additional information and expanded eligibility.

### **Get Your Omicron COVID Booster**

I'm continuing to participate in drug trials for the COVID-19 vaccine and have already received the Omicron-specific booster. You should, too. On September 7, an updated COVID-19 vaccination tailored to combat the Omicron variant became available after it was granted emergency authorization by the FDA and endorsed by the CDC last week. The new COVID vaccines can only be used as a booster shot at least two months after the completion of the primary series - or two months following an individual's latest additional or booster dose. The Moderna bivalent vaccine is authorized for people over 17 years old, while the Pfizer bivalent vaccine is authorized for those 12 years of age and older. It is recommended that people who recently had COVID-19 delay receiving a primary series dose or booster by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test.

Booster doses are widely available at pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and other locations across New York State, in addition to being available through the at-home vaccination program for homebound and/or elderly New Yorkers. New Yorkers should text their zip code to 438829, call 1-800-232-0233, or go to <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> to schedule an appointment. An appointment for at-home testing for those 65+ and immunocompromised individuals can be requested by calling (929) 298-9400 between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM any day of the week.

### **Small Business Services Employment Assistance**

The City's Department of Small Business Services has a new "Find A New Job" page, which lists open employment listings from across NYC: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>

### **Mental Health Resources**

The pandemic has shown us that mental health care is more important than ever. I want to share some free, confidential resources that you can use or share with others:

- NY Project Hope: Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314.
- NYC Well: 1-888-NYC-WELL or text "WELL" to 65173. They also offer free access to digital mental health apps and a [database](#) of behavioral health and supporting services (substance use, housing, legal, social and community services) within the five boroughs.
- The Trevor Project is based in our district and operates a national 24-hour toll-free confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth. Call 1-866-488-7386 or text "START" to 678678.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text "LOVEIS" to 22522.

### **Service: FREE Notary**

It's getting harder to find notaries in the city. In response, I'm happy to offer my notary services for free to the community. If you need notary services, please call me to make an appointment and I will personally notarize your documents. Proof of vaccination is required. Call 212-633-8052 to schedule an appointment.