



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JULIE MENIN



October 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

1. Universal Child Care Bills Passed – Julie has been [working tirelessly to bring universal childcare to New York City](#) and make New York City the first in the country to offer true universal childcare. Today, the Council approved a package of bills that she introduced to make universal childcare in NYC a reality. Julie has prioritized this issue as it is one of gender equity and of economic development. She is ecstatic that the Council has taken action with this monumental legislative package.

These bills will be instrumental in addressing a system in crisis that is unaffordable and inaccessible. Currently childcare in the city costs on average over \$21,000 per year for infants below 18 months and \$16,000 for toddlers between 18 and 24 months, making it unaffordable for the vast majority of parents. Moreover, because of high childcare costs and lack of affordable options, it is estimated that 375,000 parents have left the workforce or downsized their jobs in NYC during the COVID-19 pandemic. This package of bills mandates that the city implement universal childcare, provides assistance to struggling providers through a fund and makes it easier to open new child care centers as well as creates an electronic and subsidy database.

2. Participatory Budgeting – After last year’s Participatory budgeting cycle was one of the most successful in the entire city with over 1,800 votes, Julie is thrilled to announce that participatory budgeting is running for a second year in a row. Currently, we are in the idea gathering stage for participatory budgeting and have a website for our district that is live. Constituents [can visit the website here](#) to submit their ideas for improvements to schools, parks, and many other parts of the community as we begin working to craft the ballot. Julie is excited to build upon the successful community engagement we saw last year and work with Community Board 6 to increase participation and highlight project ideas in the neighborhood.

3. Passage of One Stop Shop Bill – Julie was pleased to see her One-Stop-Shop small business bill pass the Council unanimously this month. When Julie began her tenure as the Council’s Small Business Committee Chair, she made the implementation of a one stop portal for businesses to interact with all city agencies a top priority of hers and it was great to see that come to fruition. As a former small business owner, she has had personal experience seeing how difficult it is to navigate the many different regulations, permits, and approvals of all of the different city agencies. This legislation will serve as a significant reform for small business owners and provide much needed relief for small businesses across NYC.

4. Hospital Pricing Transparency – Julie has ramped up a push with colleagues to bring pricing transparency to hospitals across the City and provide relief to consumers at city hospitals. Julie is partnering with co-prime sponsors Council Members Mercedes Narcisse and Lynn Schulman and other key stakeholders to move forward on drafting legislation to address these issues. This legislation would empower consumers to see the cost of the same procedure at different hospitals. Furthermore, as New York City spends \$9.5 billion annually, almost 10% of its budget, on healthcare for its employees, the City could save a significant amount of money with these reforms. The efforts have continued to gain momentum as a couple weeks ago the [*New York Daily News editorial board endorsed these efforts.*](#)

5. Council Redistricting – Last week, the NYC Districting Commission announced [amended lines for Redistricting](#) and sent them to the New York City Council for approval. These lines will be final unless the Council votes them down. If they are rejected, the Commission will hold more hearings and draw a new set of maps. The amended maps represent a significant improvement to the draft maps submitted in July as areas of Community Board 6 that were previously drawn into a majority Queens District have now been restored to Manhattan Districts. This change is critical as it preserves communities of interest. Julie testified in opposition to the draft lines at the Redistricting Commission’s hearing in August and also submitted written testimony and she is grateful for the robust public testimony from many residents in the CB6 community.

6. Increased Funding for Sanitation and Rat Mitigation – A few weeks ago, Julie joined DSNY Commissioner Jessica Tisch and neighborhood leaders to announce a significant sanitation funding allocation from our office. With increased funding, ACE Cleaners will be providing robust supplementary sanitation service along First Avenue and Second Avenue through the entirety of our District. Additionally, Julie is funding Wildcat to do rat remediation in tree pits throughout the district. This is the first time the district is receiving this sort of funding to directly tackle the proliferation of rodents. Please contact our office if you have specific locations you'd like flagged for remediation.

7. CB6 Transportation Committee Meeting – Last week, one of our team members joined the CB6 Transportation Committee Meeting to discuss street safety at the 57th and 1st Avenue intersection. Early in the year, our office met with DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez at that very corner to discuss community concerns regarding safety at that intersection and some other ones along First Avenue in the District. Based on recommendations from the Community Board meeting, Julie will continue lobbying the Department of Transportation to make significant traffic calming and controlling improvements at the site.