

# New York State Senator BRAD HOYLMAN



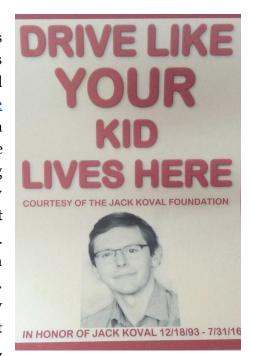
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## **REPORT TO COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

#### December 9, 2022

#### My Op-Ed on Our Grieving Families Act

Bobbi Koval's 22-year-old son Jack (pictured) was killed by a reckless driver in Hell's Kitchen six years ago. Her advocacy after her son's tragic and preventable death inspired our effort to lower the speed limit and implement safety enhancements on the West Side Highway. As Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have had the honor of working with the Koval family again to ensure accountability for the driver by passing our Grieving Families Act (S74A), which is awaiting the Governor's signature. New York's outdated 175-year old wrongful death statute allows recovery only for economic losses, meaning young lives like Jack's are essentially deemed worthless in civil actions. Read more about why Albany must modernize this statute in my op-ed, "In New York, some lives are cheap."



#### STPCVTA Town Hall: A Farewell

On December 10, I will be joining Stuy Town Peter Cooper Village Tenants' Association for their Town Hall with residents. I will be celebrating all that we have accomplished together for tenants rights and affordable housing, as my ten year tenure on the east

side comes to an end once new district maps come into effect January 1st. It has been a great honor to serve and represent the iconic development. I know the neighborhood will be in good hands with my new colleague, Senator Kristen Gonzalez, who will now represent STPCV in Albany.

#### Warning About Unlicensed Cannabis

A recent <u>report</u> shows the dangers unlicensed cannabis in New York. I've also been <u>raising concerns</u> about the risks posed by storefronts and trucks that are selling unlicensed cannabis, including by sending a <u>letter to Mayor Adams</u> with elected colleagues on the subject. This is not only consumers' hazardous health. undermines the State's equity-based legal cannabis rollout and denies both the city and state of tax revenue. Read more <u>here</u>. Please join Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, elected colleagues, and the New York State Office of Cannabis Management for a forum on the framework for medical and adult use cannabis in New York State on Wednesday, December 14, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Lower East Side Girls Club, 402 East 8th Street.



#### My Testimony on Ending Frankenstein Apartments

Up to 60,000 rent-regulated apartments are vacant, many of which are in my district. I strongly support the proposed regulatory amendment that would address the pervasive issue of apartment warehousing and so-called "frankensteining," and I urged DHCR to adopt this amendment in my testimony here. "Frankensteining" involves combining two rent-regulated apartments, or a rent-regulated and unregulated apartment, allowing a new rent to be set. This is a flagrant violation of the goals of the HSPTA, which aimed to protect our remaining rent-regulated apartments and preserve them as affordable housing for New Yorkers. I also recently met with landlords of a Hell's Kitchen building who are warehousing apartments and urged them to stop holding affordable apartments off the market. If you are experiencing apartment warehousing in your building, please reach out to my office at 212-633-8052 or <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/10.1



# Honoring a Chance at Rehabilitation Through Parole <u>Justice</u>

I returned to Albany on December 7 to hold a hearing on two Parole Justice bills, which, combined, can save New York \$522 million per year by honoring a chance at rehabilitation. I sponsor Elder Parole (S.15A) with Assemblymember Davila, which helps remedy punitively long and ineffective sentences by guaranteeing a parole hearing for individuals 55+ that have served at least 15 years. We must stop throwing all of our people – and all of our dollars – into these dungeons and instead invest in

supporting people's return to their communities. I look forward to passing this bill and Fair and Timely Parole bill this legislative session.

#### Hooray! The Julius' Bar is Finally Designated an NYC Landmark

I am overjoyed that the Julius' Bar was designated a New York City Landmark on December 6. Julius' Bar, located on West 10th Street, played a key role in the history of the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement. In 1966, as you may know, members of the Mattachine Society staged a "sip-in" at the bar to challenge used to discriminate against LGBTQ people. I joined Assemblymember Glick in submitting written <u>testimony</u> commending the Landmarks Preservation Commission for its decision to commemorate and recognize Julius' Bar as a part of our city's history. Watch my interview here.





#### Hudson Guild's 66th Annual Dr. Elliott Celebration

On December 6th, I attended Hudson Guild's 66th Annual Dr. Elliott Celebration to celebrate the incredible work that Hudson Guild does every day. I was proud to present the Youth Service Award to Karina Elias for her work caring for clients and ensuring they receive the services they need. Hudson Guild is an incredible partner, and I am always thrilled to support their work.

#### **Honoring Our Precinct Officers**

I attended the Midtown North Community Council's Annual Holiday Meeting and Award Ceremony. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the officers in our community for their hard work over the past year and thank them for their service. Thank you to the precinct's new Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector O'Connell for his leadership as well as Delores Rubin, the President of Midtown North Precinct Community Council for organizing this event.





#### New York State Legislative Session Calendar January — June 2023

The New York State legislative session calendar establishes a schedule for the 2023 legislative session and provides dates important to the legislative process. The session calendar is intende to afford Members flexibility in conducting legislative business in Albany and planning activities within their home districts. The session calendar will foster orderly and timely consideration or

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#### The 2023 NYS Legislative Session Calendar

The 2023 New York State legislative session calendar has dropped. I'll be in Albany for all of the dates in blue. Mark your calendars if you plan on venturing up to advocate for any pieces of legislation!

#### **Regulating Short-Term Rentals**

<u>I testified</u> at an Office of Special Enforcement Hearing about the implementation of Local Law 18, which will regulate short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb. Recent reports have brought to light that in my district, there are now more short-term rentals available to rent than long-term units. Local Law 18 will ensure that platforms abide by local laws and make it easier to identify bad actors and hold them accountable. Having seen the City Council pass Local Law 18 almost unanimously at the beginning of the year, I am delighted that steps are being taken to implement this law.

#### **Continuing the Fight on World AIDS Day**

In 2014, our State government made the bold pledge to end the AIDS epidemic. While progress has been made, including zero transmissions among live births, there has been a 14 percent increase in newly-diagnosed cases in the last year. On December 1, I joined New Yorkers from across the five boroughs to honor World AIDS Day at the NYC AIDS Memorial with Housing Works and other advocates in our Senate district. To help combat rising levels of HIV, I passed legislation (S.688) with Assembly Member O'Donnell that would require insurance coverage for PEP and PrEP.



Our bill is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. In addition, I sponsor legislation (<u>S.1073</u>) to require statewide rental assistance for low income New Yorkers with HIV which I hope to get passed in the upcoming legislative session. To see more of the event at the NYC AIDS Memorial visit <u>here</u>.



#### **Championing Immigrant Legal Representation**

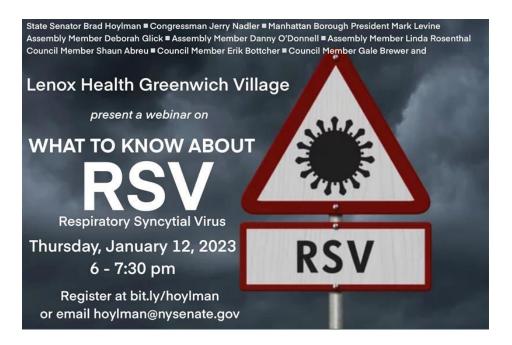
One third of immigrants with deportation cases pending in New York do not have access to a lawyer. As of October, there were over 180,000 pending deportation cases in immigration courts in New York alone with more than 55,000 are estimated to be unrepresented. Detained people in immigration hearings are over 10 times more likely to prove their right to remain in the country. We hope to address this inequitable situation through our Access to Representation Act (S81B), which will create a state for legal representation right

immigration hearings. On November 30, we held a <u>legislative roundtable</u> and rally at City Hall on our proposal with the Vera Institute of Justice, the New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant-ARC, and Make the Road New York.

#### **Meeting with PS 11 PTA**

I have continued to meet with the PS11 PTA and school leadership along with Council Member Bottcher, Assemblymember Gottfried, District Attorney Bragg and officers

from the 10th Precinct. We have been discussing issues of public safety and steps that each of our offices can take to improve conditions around the school. At my request, recently the State Liquor Authority (SLA) conducted an inspection of a nearby deli, including an underage buy attempt, and they passed inspection. I look forward to working with my colleagues and stakeholders to continue to address issues around the school.



#### Thursday, January 12: "What to Know About RSV" Event

On January 12, join me, Lenox Health experts, and my elected colleagues to learn more about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and how to stay safe. Register at bit.ly/hoylman or by emailing hoylman@nysenate.gov.

#### Fighting for 421a Reform

On December 3, I joined the West Side Neighborhood Alliance (WSNA) for their 17th Annual West Side Tenants' Conference. I spoke on a panel alongside Assemblymember Rosenthal about our successful efforts to end the 421a tax abatement. In Financial Year 2022 alone, 421a cost the city \$1.7 billion in forgone property tax. I also discussed our legislation to protect tenants living in 421a buildings and to audit the program. We also discussed what tenants who live in 421a buildings should know about their rights. I was proud to present a proclamation to WSNA celebrating their almost two decades of work fighting for tenants' rights.

#### Calling for Hate Crimes Funding for LGBTQ Bars

LGBTQ bars and nightclubs are historic safe spaces for the community. But as we've seen, they're under attack across the nation and even in our own Senate district. New York State can protect LGBTQ bars and nightclubs act by passing my proposal with Assembly Member O'Donnell to expand the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes program to include small businesses at risk of hate crimes to help them harden their premises against domestic terror attacks. Read more about our proposal here, which we will be raising during the upcoming state budget negotiations.





"LGBTQ bars and nightclubs are meant to be safe spaces for our community. But as we've seen, they're under attack across the nation," Hoylman and O'Donnell said in a joint statement.



## Raising Awareness about Federal Funding for Mental Health Crisis

New York's growing mental health crisis demands support from the federal government. I have urged New York State to apply for a waiver to unlock millions in federal dollars to address the crisis to help make our streets and subways safer, along with Assembly Member Gottfried, Council Member Bottcher and other elected officials. Watch my interview on this subject here and read more here.

#### **Demanding MTA Funding in the Budget**

I joined the Riders Alliance and others in the coalition to demand #6MinuteService for our buses and subways. New York's transit system is the circulatory system of our city. Our buses and subways are an integral part of what makes our city great, but current levels of service are undermining our recovery. New Yorkers need a system that is reliable and fast, which is why I joined advocates in calling for necessary investments to make that a reality this budget cycle.



#### Requiring New Vehicle Technology to Save Lives

I joined the City and State's Transportation Summit to discuss building a safer and more secure future for all road users, alongside other New York City officials and private sector leaders. I was proud to talk about our newly introduced Vehicle Safety Standards Act (S.9528), which would ensure new cars sold in New York contain common-sense safety technologies, like intelligent speed assistance, and are designed to maximize visibility of other road users. Technology and design can save lives. Read more about our effort <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

#### Confirmation of the Next Chief Judge

As Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I'm pleased that the Commission on Judicial Nomination has answered the call by elected officials and advocates by selecting a more <u>diverse list of seven candidates</u> for the vacancy of Chief Judge of the NYS Court of Appeals, our state's highest court. I will be closely reviewing the qualifications of the Governor's selection, which will be made in the coming days, at an upcoming hearing of my committee. In addition, I am exploring the composition of the Commission itself, which some think gives outsized influence to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

#### Success! Gay Men Can Donate Blood

Some gay men will be permitted to donate blood after the FDA released new blood donation guidelines. I have long advocated for updating federal guidelines to do away with the so-called "gay blood ban." I think the relaxing of these restrictions should go still further to include all LGBTQ people, not just those in monogamous relationships, especially since blood supply is still facing historic lows and studies show that by allowing men who have sex with men donate would increase the blood supply by 2 to 4 percent. That said, I'm thankful this outdated and discriminatory policy is finally being revised. Read more here.





Senator Hoylman, an openly gay legislator who has long advocated for adjusting the policy told W42ST: "It's gratifying to know that the FDA is finally making a change that is aligned with countries across the globe and scientific evidence — and will end this discriminatory policy, particularly at a time when we have had, and continue to face, blood shortages. I welcome it, and it has been a long time coming."

#### **Getting Illegal Guns Off Our Streets**

Earlier this year, my bill (\$14A) with Assembly Member Rosenthal banning the sale and possession of ghost guns went into effect. Just this month, New York stopped a ghost gun trafficking ring in Queens that illegally sold 47 firearms. I'm proud to see our work result in fewer weapons on our streets and was pleased to join District Attorney Alvin Bragg and Assembly Member Epstein in early December at a gun "buyback" event on the Lower East Side where individuals received a \$200 bank card and an iPad for handguns and assault rifles returned, no questions asked.



# GOD'S LOVE WE DELIVER

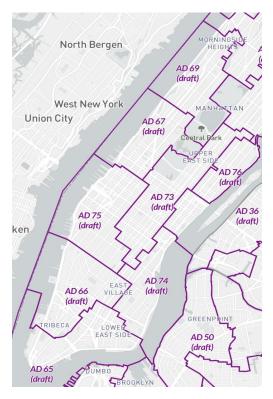
#### Giving Thanks to God's Love We Deliver

It was inspiring to help prepare Thanksgiving dinners with members of my team in support of God's Love We Deliver, along with President & CEO Karen Pearl, who tells me requests for meals are up 30% since the pandemic. During one shift alone, we prepared 1,578 Thanksgiving dinners. I trust you and your loved ones had a good holiday. See more

photos here.

#### New Assembly District Draft Maps

The state Independent Redistricting Commission voted to move forward with a new draft map of the Assembly districts on Thursday. Check out the proposed maps <a href="here">here</a> and read more <a href="here">here</a>. If you would like to submit your comments on the map drafts or watch previous hearings, click <a href="here">here</a>.



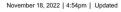
#### **Fighting Hate Crimes**

Like you, I was horrified by the hate attack on an LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado Springs resulting in five deaths and multiple injuries. Read my statement <a href="here">here</a>. I'm working closely with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services on the implementation of my legislation, <a href="the Hate Crimes Analysis and Review Act">the Hate Crimes Analysis and Review Act</a>, signed into law last year, which will mandate the better collection of data about hate crimes. Also, on the Transgender Day of Remembrance, I joined Gays Against Guns at the Stonewall Inn to speak out against the proliferation against guns and the rise in hatred directed at transgender adults and children and advocated for my bill (\$5.8842A) to make New York a safe haven for trans kids and their families. You can learn more about this important bill here.



#### Manhattan Democrat Brad Hoylman wants New York to probe 'long COVID' effects on workers

By Zach Williams





#### Advocating Probe on Long Covid

Last month, I introduced <u>S.9598</u>, which directs the NYS Department of Labor to study the impact of long COVID on employees and the labor market. I think we all know friends and family who've contracted COVID-19 but have long term effects, along with 16 million other Americans. Our legislation will help us learn more about long COVID and develop policies to protect workers and counter the effects in the labor market, including the \$170 billion in lost wages due to the condition. Read more about the bill here.

#### **Supporting Federal Marriage Equality**

In November, I was honored to join a Marriage Equality rally at the LGBT Center with Senator Schumer and Congressman Nadler, lead sponsors of the federal Respect for Marriage Act, which will repeal the infamous Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and prevent MAGA judges from eroding LGBTQ marriage when it's passed after Thanksgiving. I'm grateful to my colleagues, in particular Assemblymember O'Donnell and former Senator Duane, for passing Marriage Equality in New York. I'm



honored to have built on their pioneering work in the Senate by <u>passing legislation to help implement New York's Marriage Equality Law</u> (S.300) and signed into law in 2019.



#### **Launching Our Landmark Adult Survivors Act**

Last month, I joined survivors of sexual abuse and advocates in Times Square to unveil a digital billboard with Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and <u>campaign</u> to inform adult survivors of sexual abuse about their options during our Adult Survivors Act lookback window, which opened on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

More than <u>750 formerly incarcerated women</u> have already announced their intentions of utilizing our Adult Survivors Act to bring civil claims against their abusers, including women formerly at the Bayview correctional facility in Chelsea. I joined several of these courageous women on Wednesday to encourage other survivors to come forward. The ASA will not only provide these women a path to justice but also identify predators and the institutions that may have protected them. If you or someone you know is looking for assistance in filing a claim, contact Safe Horizon at 212-227-3000.

#### **Supporting Broadway**

I've been proud to represent Broadway in our Senate district, including helping the industry recover from COVID-19 by successfully fighting for the doubling of the Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit in this year's NYS Budget. In that spirit, I've been honored to help the new Museum of Broadway open by providing assistance with administrative



approvals and cutting their opening ribbon along with Mayor Adams, Council Member Bottcher, and Borough President Levine. I encourage you to visit and pay homage to the Great White Way, which grossed \$1.83 billion in the 2018-19 season, the attendance of which was greater than those of the ten professional NYC Metro-area sports teams combined. You can find more photos from the event <a href="here">here</a>.



#### Fighting Demolition by Neglect

It's unacceptable that the tenth historic building in the Greenwich Village Historic District is facing the wrecking ball. I joined Village Preservation, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, and Councilmember Erik Bottcher last Monday to demand City agencies provide greater oversight and monitoring of our historic fabric and joined a letter calling on Mayor Adams to take swift and meaningful action to prevent future demolitions by neglect in our neighborhoods.

#### Planning for the Redevelopment of Bayview

As part of the Penn Station Redevelopment Plan, Empire State Development committed to redeveloping the site of the former Bayview Correctional Facility in Chelsea into housing, including 60 units of supportive housing. Empire State Development is preparing to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project outlining their goals, and is in the process of collecting feedback from the community. I am working closely with the leadership of Community Board 4 on this issue alongside Council Member Bottcher, Borough President Levine and incoming Assembly Member Simone. If you have feedback concerning this project, please contact me at 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov.

#### **Continuing to Advocate on Penn Station Proposals**

Following the recommendations of the Community Advisory Council Working Group, Empire State Development (ESD) has formed a Public Realm Task Force to consult and advise ESD on the public realm improvements in the Penn Station Project Area and vicinity. The Public Realm Task Force held its second meeting at the end of November, and will meet again in the new year. The Task Force will look at Pedestrian Safety and Experience, Wayfinding and Legibility, Accessibility, and Climate Responsiveness.

Please reach out to me at hoylman@nysenate.gov to share your concerns (many of which I already share).









#### Me Around the Senate District

I've been busy in our Senate District:

- Honoring Jneyde Williams, a resident of Fulton Houses in Chelsea, for her award-winning poster design for Citibike;
- Distributing turkeys at Chelsea-Elliott Houses generously donated by Jamestown Properties and Google;
- Participating in the Community Board 4's Coat & Diaper Drive at Metro Baptist Church in Hell's Kitchen;
- Helping hand out turkeys at Amsterdam Houses generously donated

by Lincoln Center;

• Handing out coats to PS111 children in conjunction with the Manhattan Borough President and Councilmember Bottcher in Hell's Kitchen.

# <u>Celebrating the Holiday Season with the Lincoln Square BID</u>

I was thrilled to join the Lincoln Square BID for their annual tree lighting ceremony to ring in the holiday season. It was an honor to join Assembly Member Rosenthal, Council Member Brewer, Deputy Borough President Sutton-James and the NYC Parks Department in the celebration. Thank you BID President Monica Blum.





#### **Honored for My Work on LGBTQ Human Rights**

I'm extremely honored to have been the recipient of the anniversary award at Equality New York, a leading LGBTQ rights organization, for my efforts passing the Gender Expression Nondiscrimination Act (GENDA), banning LGBTQ "conversion therapy" and establishing a fund for vulnerable transgender New Yorkers. Thank you, Equality New York!

#### Fighting for New School Adjuncts

Part-time faculty at The New School, who make up nearly 90 percent of all teaching staff, went on strike November 16 after the administration failed to bargain for a fair contract. That is simply not right. All workers deserve fair wages, healthcare, and protections from discrimination and harassment. I joined their picket line in November to call on the New School to put their money where their mouth is and come back to the bargaining table.



#### **Community Resources**



Saturday, December 10: UWS Open Hearts: Holiday Event + Free Store

UWS Open Hearts is hosting a holiday event and free store this Saturday. Drop off gently used or new winter clothes, toiletries, and holiday gift-related materials from 9 - 11:30am – or come by to shop for the items for free from 10am - 12pm.





Learn about programs that can protect your services and assist you in managing your bills.

To learn more: scan the QR code to visit www.dps.ny.gov/winter or call 1-800-342-3377.





#### **Winter Utility Bill Help**

Looking for help with winter utility bills? Learn about programs that can protect your services and assist you in managing your bills <a href="here">here</a> or by calling 1-800-342-3377.



Now Open: Chelsea Waterside Park Dog Run

The dog park just west of 11th Ave between 22nd and 23rd Streets is now open. The existing dog park has been enlarged, improved, and a section has been carved out just for smaller pups. *Photo credit:* 500 West Block Association.



Job Opportunity: High Line Teens

High Line Teens is a paid employment opportunity for local youth (approximately ages 15 to 19) focused on skills-building & leadership development through civic engagement, arts & culture, ecological horticulture initiatives, public programs, & strategic partnerships. Apply <a href="here">here</a> by December 8.