



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

JULIE MENIN



December 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

- 1. Rat Mitigation** - This past year, NYC residents and constituents of District 5 have witnessed an unprecedented number of rat sightings and incidents. While the city pilots new rat-proof trash bins and the Council passed recent legislation to take on this issue, Julie has taken action to immediately address the rat dilemma in our community. Our office has utilized discretionary funding to allocate money to an extermination service and target rat burrows in tree pits and planters throughout the District. The extermination has seen robust initial success with a 90% reduction in burrows in a pilot on 86th Street. Constituents have flagged many other blocks throughout the whole District to now target and our office is expanding this work. Please reach out to our office if there are any blocks infested with rat burrows in tree pits that our office can assist in addressing.
- 2. Healthcare Pricing Transparency Bill** - As healthcare costs skyrocket and the City faces budgetary headwinds, it's critical that the Council tackles healthcare pricing transparency. NYC spends almost 10% of its annual budget (over \$9.5 billion) on health care costs. Additionally, there are significant cost differences between hospitals for the exact same procedure: a study found that at one NYC hospital a C-Section can cost just under \$20,000 while at another one it costs \$50,000. Julie has been working with her colleagues, labor leaders, and advocates to call on NYC healthcare providers to be transparent and disclose information on pricing. Last week, Julie introduced the Healthcare Accountability and Consumer Protection Act, legislation that can help tackle this issue. In addition to reining in costs, the bill will empower NYC consumers and families and help them receive the same quality healthcare for less. Currently, a supermajority of Council Members has signed on to the legislation.
- 3. Participatory Budgeting** - As fiscal year 2022 is well underway and our office looks towards fiscal year 2023, we are very pleased to have received a high volume of participatory budgeting proposals on the city council participatory budgeting idea submission map. The deadline for submitting capital improvement suggestions for Participatory Budgeting is quickly approaching as our office is beginning to submit proposals to NYC departments agencies to determine pricing and feasibility. If you have a capital improvement idea and would like to see it on the participatory budgeting ballot

this spring, please submit your ideas by the end of the month. To view currently proposed initiatives or to submit your own, please visit: <http://ideas.pbnyc.org/place/650880>.

- 4. New initiative to expand NYC Business Improvement Districts** - Since she took over as Chair of the Small Business Committee in January, Julie has led the charge in advocating to the Administration to increase funding to Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in underserved areas and introduce funding for the formation of new BIDs across the entire city. BIDs provide important functions of sanitation and safety in commercial corridors as well as marketing and other back-office support for businesses. Our office is happy to report that the Administration responded and allocated that funding through the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). Julie joined the SBS Commissioner and advocates last week to celebrate and announce the allocation of \$4.4 million to BIDs and BID formation across the City. This is the first allocation of its kind and will have an overwhelming impact on our small businesses.

- 5. New standalone early childhood center coming to East 65th street** - Last month, Julie was proud to be the lead sponsor on 5 bills in the universal childcare package, making New York City the first in America to pass universal childcare. In addition, our office is dedicated to bringing additional Pre-K and 3-K seats to our neighborhood. Julie was proud to join the School Construction Authority last week to announce that a new standalone Pre-K and 3-K center is coming to our community. An abandoned garage building on East 65th street will be converted into the center and will be the first standalone center in the entire 10065 zip code. It will be available to hold up to 10 classrooms for District 2 Pre-K and 3-K once completed. Our office is thrilled to bring affordable childcare to the district and will be sure to provide more information on the coming construction.