

# A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, FEBRUARY 2023**

Friend,

Over the past two years, we have spent a lot of time talking about how to improve public safety for all New Yorkers. Over the past year, we have taken big strides in doing just that: we provided additional resources for district attorneys around the state to help to comply with changes discovery rules and ensured the court system received funding to hire additional judges to move cases along as quickly as possible.

In addition, we have invested in credible messengers around the state to talk to young people who could engage in criminal behavior and help them avoid the criminal justice system. We also invested sufficient funds to open up an additional 200 beds for people with serious long term mental health needs.

However, there is more work to be done. The Governor has proposed doubling the number of housing units NYS builds over the next 10 years to keep up with the influx of new people moving to our state. She also proposed another 1,000 beds for people with serious mental health issues. Public safety requires multiple approaches because this issue like so many others is complicated and requires diverse solutions. Please be assured I am committed to making our city and state safer for all of us. I live, walk and take the subway here and so do my family members. We want a safer New York for all of us.

See you around the district,

Harvey

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Tyre Nichols**

I am outraged and appalled at the inhumanity of the five police officers who wielded savagely cruel force against Tyre Nichols, brutally murdering him. They committed murder knowing their body cameras were rolling and that the violence on display would likely become public. That didn't stop them. What does it say about the culture of policing and the view these officers had of themselves that they felt comfortable using deadly force on a nonviolent individual all while cameras recorded it?

We have to hold police accountable for their actions. We must end qualified immunity and because no one is above the law.

---

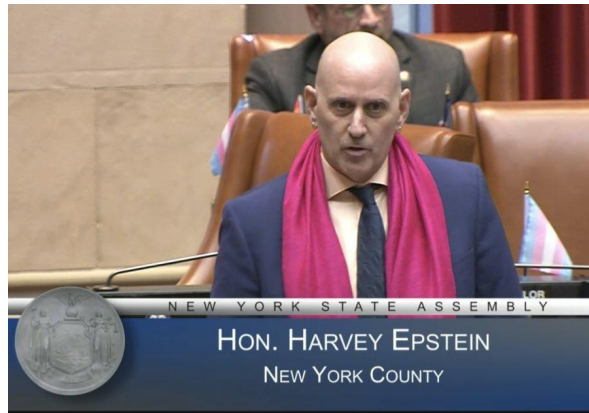
## **Facts Not Fear - Joint Hearing on Criminal Justice Data**



Last week, I was pleased to take testimony from state agencies and other stakeholders on criminal justice data. What we learned is that the data reinforces that bail reform in 2020 worked. The data does not lie. Lawmaking has to be based on facts and data, not headlines. The more information we have to make decisions, the better.

---

## **Equal Rights Amendment Passes**



Last week I proudly voted in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, which would protect NYers against discrimination & protect their right to repro autonomy & access to repro healthcare. I applaud sponsors AM Seawright and Sen. Krueger and look forward to voting yes when it's on the ballot in November 2024.

### **Speaking Up For NYEEI**

Last week I joined advocates and many of my colleagues in calling on the state department of health to pause in its consideration of Mount Sinai Beth Israel's application to merge with New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEEI). We are concerned this merger could be the beginning of the end for the hospital as MSBI has represented it will shift some services currently offered on site to other locations across the city. This is troubling for our community and the thousands of New Yorkers with visual and hearing disabilities that have been patients at NYEEI for years.

---

### **New COVID-19 Boosters Available**

New Yorkers are urged to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine booster

The updated bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines, from Pfizer and Moderna, protect you against the original COVID-19 virus and the current BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

NYC Health + Hospitals now has the updated bivalent COVID-19 booster available for all our patients. Make an appointment today at any of our hospitals or Gotham Health Centers in your neighborhood.

The updated booster is available for those who have already completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series or booster at least two months ago. [Learn more](#)

[Make an appointment](#) | Call 877-829-4692 for an appointment | [NYC Vaccine Finder](#)

*Who can get the updated COVID-19 booster shot?*

- Young people from age 12 -17 can only receive the updated Pfizer booster vaccine.

- Adults 18 and older can receive the updated Pfizer or the updated Moderna COVID-19 booster vaccine.

[Read the CDC vaccine and booster recommendation by age](#)

*Why you should get the updated booster shot.*

If you completed a COVID-19 primary vaccine series, you will be considered up-to-date when you receive the booster dose recommended for you by the CDC.

- 90% of all current COVID-19 cases are caused by the BA.5 subvariant.
- Getting the updated vaccine booster will increase your protection against getting very sick or needing to go to the hospital if you get COVID-19.

---

### **Upcoming Events**

*NYC Restaurant Week Is Back - now thru 2/12*

Restaurant week is back! Visit <https://www.nycgo.com/restaurant-week> to learn about participating restaurants and make a reservation.

---

*Independent Redistricting Commission 2023 Public Hearings - January*

Visit <https://nyirc.gov/participate> to learn more

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4(c) of the New York State Constitution, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (the "Commission") will hold a series of twelve public hearings across the state to receive feedback on its draft redistricting plan for court ordered New York State Assembly districts.

The Constitution requires the Commission to hold twelve hearings in the cities of Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, and White Plains, as well as the counties of Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond, Nassau, and Suffolk. For a full list of hearings, visit [Visit https://nyirc.gov/participate](https://nyirc.gov/participate).

Further information regarding these hearings will be available on the Commission's website, [www.NYIRC.gov](http://www.NYIRC.gov), in the coming days and weeks. Recordings of the hearings will be made available to the public following each hearing's completion.

\*\*\* = Indicates that the venue requires either Note that all guests must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (all attendees, including staff) or provide a negative PCR test within 7 days of the event.

*New York County \*\*\* Tuesday, February 7 4:00pm*

*Hunter College (CUNY)*

*Kaye Playhouse*

*695 Park Avenue*

*(entrance on 68th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues)*

*New York, New York 10065*

We encourage you to review the draft Assembly plan the Commission voted to release to the public on December 1, 2022. The Commission eagerly awaits your input! Click below to explore the draft Assembly plan or to sign up to participate in a hearing.