



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JULIE MENIN



February 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

1. Letter to Assembly Redistricting Commission: Last summer during the NYC Council redistricting process, our office was proud to help win the fight to change a redistricting proposal that would have moved a swath of Community District 6 into a majority-Queens Council District. Julie was therefore eager to join the similar fight in the current Assembly redistricting against the redistricting of a large section of Community District 6 into Assembly District 36, a majority-Queens Assembly District. Yesterday, Julie [submitted testimony](#) to the State Assembly Redistricting Commission raising concerns about the preliminary maps. The letter highlights that the redistricting of historically Manhattan districts would go directly against the redistricting guidelines clarified in the State Constitution that call for communities of interest to stay intact. Julie will continue to fight for our communities and neighborhoods to remain united.

2. Student Art Initiative: Our office has heard many complaints and concerns regarding the now seven year old construction site on York Avenue between 61st and 63rd street. To mitigate some of the quality of life issues, this fall Julie and DDC Commissioner Tom Foley announced a student art project that would be featured on a newly created barrier to beautify the project. This week, Julie was proud to join Commissioner Foley and 5th graders from P.S. 183 to unveil the completed project. The beautification project includes a new fence around the site which features art created by over 60 P.S. 183 5th graders. The students were tasked with submitting artwork in the theme of “Scenes from the City” and “What NYC Means To You.” We hope that this project brings some relief to residents who have been left to look at the blight of an invasive construction site for years and encourage you to come visit and see the beautiful art.

3. Unlicensed Smoke Shops: As our city has experienced a proliferation of unlicensed smoke shops, our office has been advocating for greater regulation from the state and working with our colleagues in the City Council to mitigate the quality of life issues stemming from many of these businesses. In the meantime, Julie has been working with the 17th precinct and Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to increase enforcement at stores selling marijuana or tobacco without a license and additionally those that are marketing these illicit products to minors. Our office has heard many concerns about the smoke shop located on East 56th street between 1st and 2nd avenues, right near P.S. 59. Recently, the city’s enforcement efforts have yielded dozens of citations levied against the business including lack of licenses, failing to advertise that certain products are not legal for consumption for individuals under 21 years of age, selling products for illegally low prices, and selling flavored vapor products. Separately, Julie and her colleague, Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, wrote a letter to the Adams administration calling for a

commitment to a robust marketing campaign educating the public about the health risks of purchasing cannabis from unlicensed retailers. As Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, she led a similar public information campaign for the City regarding the dangers of K2. Please continue to contact our office regarding any smoke shops in District 5 that you suspect of violating city or state law.

4.Meeting with 17th precinct: A couple of weeks ago, Julie had the pleasure to host Deputy Inspector Edwards of the 17th precinct and his Community Affairs team in our district office to discuss a number of public safety and quality of life issues in our neighborhood. Julie reiterated her advocacy and support for the installation of security cameras in Sutton Place's pocket parks. Our office will continue to work with the NYPD and community partners to move this forward. In the meeting, Julie took the opportunity to again advocate for greater enforcement of unlicensed smoke shops in the district. We will continue our partnership on this issue with the 17th precinct. Separately, we have been working with the Precinct on the recent proliferation of graffiti in the Sutton Place area. The 17th Precinct is aware and is working on some of the beautification efforts in response.

5. SBA Event with Small Business Administrator: As Chair of the Small Business Committee, one of Julie's top priorities is increasing digitalization. Her bill to create an Office of Digitalization is being considered by the City Council and our office believes it will be a major win for many small businesses who lack a digital presence and struggle to compete. Last month, Julie had the pleasure of joining the U.S. Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman at an event for the Small Business Digital Alliance in partnership with Verizon. Julie delivered the opening remarks at the event discussing the Council's commitment to digitalization and looks forward to further collaboration with federal officials to support our small businesses.