

## A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



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

Friend,

We're in the midst of the budget process. As a member of the Codes, Corrections, Environmental Conservation, Housing, and Higher Education, and People with Disabilities committees, I've had the opportunity to take testimony from a variety of stakeholders during the joint budget hearing process. As the newly appointed chair of the Legislative Commission on State-Local Relations, I also had the opportunity to take testimony from Mayor Adams and City Council Speaker Adams, both of whom agreed with one of my top policy priorities: the safe legalization of existing basement and cellar units in New York City.

See you around the district,

Harvey

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## How to Participate in Curbside Composting

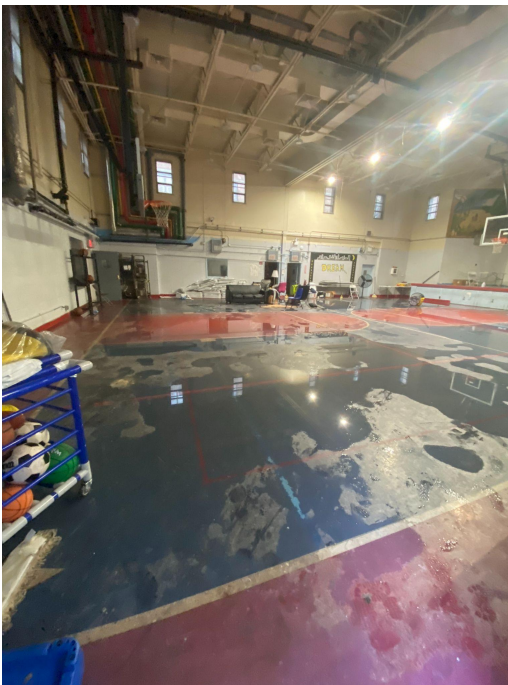
Curbside composting will be available, year-round, to all New Yorkers over the next 20 months. Unlike past composting programs, there is **no sign-up required** for this new program. Residents simply set out anything from their kitchen or their garden in a separate bin on their recycling day and let DSNY pick it up to turn into usable compost or clean, renewable energy.

- March 27, 2023 – Queens service resumes
- October 2, 2023 – Brooklyn service begins
- March 25, 2024 – The Bronx and Staten Island service begins
- October 7, 2024 – Manhattan service begins

While DSNY will make its own Brown Bins available, this program also includes the flexibility for New Yorkers to use ANY bin of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid.

As announced in August, DSNY installed 250 smart composting bins citywide which are accessible 24 hours a day. After being piloted in Astoria, they were placed in traditionally underserved communities, including Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, Washington Heights, Harlem, Castle Hill, Parkchester, Highbridge, the area around Queensbridge Houses, and the North Shore of Staten Island. 150 more are on the way in Manhattan this Spring, since Manhattan will be the last borough to receive curbside service. Download the NYC Smart Compost app to use the bin near you and view locations.

Find out more details about what's to come [here](#).



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## Supporting Campos Plaza Community Center

We recently learned of major flooding taking place at Campos Plaza Community center, rendering it unusable. My staff attended a walkthrough of the Center to witness the problem firsthand, and participated in a meeting with NYCHA in which they committed to sanitizing the affected spaces, implementing a new preventative maintenance schedule, and bidding out a contract to repair the underlying problem pipes.

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## Joint Budget Hearing Update

### *Basement Apartments*

Last week, I was pleased to have both Mayor Adams and New York City Council Speaker Adams agree that we need to address the dangers of illegal basement and cellar units by creating pathways to legalization that focuses on safety and tenant protections, including the right for tenants to remain in their units after safety upgrades are complete.

The Governor has introduced legislation as part of the budget process that largely mirror my bill with housing chair Senator Kavanagh. As we work to reach an agreement on a budget over the next six weeks, I am working hard to stand up for New Yorkers living in these apartments.



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### *Mental Health at SUNY / CUNY*



As a member of the Committee on People with Disabilities, I had the opportunity to raise questions with SUNY and CUNY leadership regarding their commitment to students who need mental health support. I am proud to be advocating for essential care for these students, as well as SUNY and CUNY students with disabilities who need additional support, including assistive technologies, interpreters, and more.

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## Students With Disabilities Advocacy Day

For the past 4 years, I have introduced a resolution in support of students with disabilities at our higher education institutions and fought for funding to help them succeed in school. This year, we welcomed hundreds of students from SUNY, CUNY, and private institutions to lobby in Albany for increased funding. Over 80 Assemblymembers signed onto the resolution I introduced along with Senator Gounardes, who has championed this issue in the Senate.





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## Report Back: 13th Forward Lobby Day



I was proud to stand with Senator Myrie and the 13th Forward Coalition in support of our two bills, The No Slavery in NY Act and The Fairness & Opportunities for Incarcerated New Yorkers Act. One hundred and fifty seven years ago the 13th amendment to the constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery in a majority of the states. However, one pernicious exception to abolition has persisted for over a century and a half, allowing for slavery and involuntary servitude for prison labor.

Today, states are acting to amend their own constitutions to end slavery and guarantee freedom from forced labor under any circumstances, once and for all. In New York, we must do the same. You can learn more about the campaign here: <https://13thforward.com>.

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## Tax Season is Coming Up

Those earning less than \$250,000 a year, based on the proportion of their income spent on property taxes, may be eligible for a property tax relief credit, commonly known as a "circuit breaker" plan. For more information or to find if you are eligible, please visit [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/homeowner-tax-rebate-credit.htm](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/homeowner-tax-rebate-credit.htm).

*Various tax savings are available for working families through the expanded Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Visit [www.irs.gov/help/ita/does-my-childdependent-qualify-for-the-child-tax-credit-or-the-credit-for-other-dependents](http://www.irs.gov/help/ita/does-my-childdependent-qualify-for-the-child-tax-credit-or-the-credit-for-other-dependents) or [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc) to learn more.*

### *Free Tax Help*

Need help doing your taxes? New Yorkers whose 2022 income was \$73,000 or less may be eligible to file their state and federal income tax returns for free through the state's partnership with the Free File Alliance. Visit [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/) to learn more.

### *Tax Filing Assistance*

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation for seniors. For more information or to see if you are

eligible for these services, please visit

[www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers).

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### **Trip to Albany with SOMOS, Assembly Member's Grace Lee and Harvey Epstein**

Friday March 10th, 2023

We call upon the Seniors of our district to join us on this FREE trip to the Capitol. We will be having free resources, a meet and greet with elected officials, and a reception with food. Please call 212-979-9696 to RSVP by Wednesday 3pm to Joanna or Kathleen.

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### **E-Waste Event**

March 19, 2023, 10 am - 2 pm

Location: **Tompkins Square Park**, Between 9th and 10th Street On Avenue A

Come Recycle your E-waste! We accept working and nonworking computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, computer mice, cables, TVs, VCRs & DVD players, phones, audio/visual equipment, cell phones and PDA's.

For more information go to [lesecologycenter.org](http://lesecologycenter.org) or call 212-477-4022.

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### **55 Suffolk Street Application Start**

Applications are now being accepted for affordable housing at **The Suffolk Apartments, 55 Suffolk Street, New York, NY 10002.**

The ad is enclosed. Please note that rents and income limits are subject to change and asset limits may apply. In addition, minimum incomes listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies.

We encourage interested persons to apply online at <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/details/3489> or write to request a paper application and advertisement (see below). Online and paper applications are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.

To obtain paper applications send self-addressed envelope to:

**The Suffolk Lottery**  
**c/o Settlement Housing Fund, Inc.**  
247 West 37th Street, 19th Floor

New York, NY 10018

Please remember that online applications must be submitted by **April 12, 2023**, the deadline date, and that the applications received after this deadline date will not be considered. Completed paper applications must be sent to the Post Office Box address indicated on the application, postmarked by the application deadline date. Applicants may not submit more than one application per household.

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## Job Opportunities

- [Full Time Opportunities](#), Wegmans
- [Manager of Community Health](#), Academy of Medical & Public Health Services
- [Youth Organizer](#), Adelante Student Voices
- [Executive Director](#), Adhikaar
- [District Organizer](#), Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha
- [Director of Programs](#), Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development (ANHD)
- [Executive Director](#), Black Farmers United - New York State (BFU-NYS)
- [National Development Director](#), Critical Resistance
- [New York Membership and Campaign Director](#), Dignity in Schools Campaign-NY (DSC-NY)
- [Part-time Organizer](#), Families for Freedom
- [Impact Producer](#), Fire Through Dry Grass
- [Senior Finance and Operations Manager](#), Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
- [Writer-editor](#), Hell Gate
- [Executive Administrative Assistant](#), Judith Heumann
- [Director of Finance and Operations](#), Just Fund
- [Director of Liberatory Education](#), Kite's Nest
- [Communications Director](#), National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ)
- [Development and Membership Coordinator](#), Native Americans in Philanthropy
- [Donor Engagement Director](#), New Economy Project
- [Development and Communications Associate](#), New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
- [Urban Agriculture Manager](#), New York Restoration Project
- [Donor Organizing Fellow](#), NY Renews
- [Community Organizing Coordinator](#), Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP)
- [Community Food Retail Coordinator](#), RiseBoros
- [Associate Director](#), Sane Energy Project
- [Donor Organizer](#), Solidaire Network
- [Communications Director](#), Theatre of the Oppressed NYC (TONYC)
- [Urban County Executive Director](#), USDA-Farm Service Agency
- [Deputy Director](#), W.O.W. Project

## Multiple Positions Open

- [Multiple positions](#), Al Otro Lado
- [Multiple positions](#), Black Alliance for Just Immigration
- [Multiple positions](#), Black Farmer Fund
- [Multiple positions](#), Brooklyn Community Foundation
- [Multiple positions](#), Chhaya CDC
- [Multiple positions](#), Citizen Action
- [Multiple positions](#), Common Justice
- [Multiple positions](#), Communities United for Police Reform
- [Multiple positions](#), Damayan
- [Multiple positions](#), Economic Security Project
- [Multiple positions](#), Ella Baker Center
- [Multiple positions](#), Girls for Gender Equity
- [Multiple positions](#), GOLES
- [Multiple positions](#), GrowNYC
- [Multiple positions](#), IntegrateNYC
- [Multiple positions](#), MADRE
- [Multiple positions](#), Make the Road NY
- [Multiple positions](#), Masa
- [Multiple positions](#), New American Leaders
- [Multiple positions](#), New York Immigration Coalition
- [Multiple positions](#), Rural Migrant Ministry
- [Multiple positions](#), Rock Steady Farm
- [Multiple positions](#), Social Movement Technologies
- [Multiple positions](#), Tenants & Neighbors
- [Multiple positions](#), Turning Point for Women and Families, New York
- [Multiple positions](#), The Wakeman Agency
- [Multiple positions](#), Worker's Justice Project
- [Multiple positions](#), Working Families Party