



THE OFFICE OF  
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**MARK LEVINE**

## **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's March 8, 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6**

### **1.) Save the Date for Borough President Levine's Women's History Month Event March 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

Borough President Levine wishes everyone a happy Women's History Month. Please save the date for the Borough President's Women's History Month event at 47-49 East 65th Street at 6pm on March 22, 2023. Please keep an eye out for the invitation later this month.

### **2.) Open Meetings Law Update:**

On Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> the Mayor recently issued Emergency Executive Order 339, which extends the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration for 30 days through March 21, 2023.

### **3.) Community Board Application Open Through March 17th!**

The Manhattan Community Board application is now open. The deadline is March 17, 2022. If your term is expiring this year, please be sure to re-apply using the application available [here](#). If you have any additional questions, please reach out to your Community Liaison, Brian Lafferty at 929-510-6740 or [blafferty@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:blafferty@manhattanbp.nyc.gov).

### **4.) Borough President Levine Releases Plan and Video to Tackle Sidewalk Sheds:**

On, Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, Borough President Levine joined Council Majority Leader Keith Powers, Council Member Shaun Abreu, Council

Member Erik Bottcher, and Council Member Pierina Sanchez to release a plan and a video aimed at tackling the unintended issues and blight caused by sidewalk sheds, known colloquially as scaffolding. In Manhattan alone, there are more than 4,000 sidewalk sheds, many of which have been up for several years and more than 200 of which have been up for more than five years. In response, Borough President Levine is calling for measures to help buildings speed up façade work, to penalize bad actors, to have more flexibility regarding when façade inspections are required, to have better designs for sidewalk sheds, and more.

To help buildings complete façade work more quickly so that their sidewalk sheds come down faster, Borough President Levine is advocating for low-interest loans to buildings struggling to complete mandated façade work and for the creation of an accelerator program at the Department of Buildings to help property owners comply with Local Law 11. To reduce delays caused by permitting requirements, Borough President Levine is proposing that the façade permitting processes at the Landmarks Preservation Commission be expedited through expanding the number of staff available for Local Law 11 compliance and by dedicating a unit specifically for this purpose. To hold buildings accountable for failing to complete façade work quickly, and to expeditiously erect and remove sidewalk sheds, Borough President Levine is calling for increasing fines and civil penalties and for the City to exercise its emergency powers to perform work on buildings that fail to correct unsafe conditions.

Borough President Levine is also advocating for legislative updates to Local Law 11 inspection regulations and design standards. These updates include legislation that would allow drones to be used to improve the speed and efficiency of façade inspections, legislation that would reform design standards to allow use of more attractive types of scaffolding, legislation that would incentivize buildings to do major repairs all at once rather than smaller, more frequent fixes, legislation that would extend Local Law 11 cycles by two years for buildings that

complete major façade renovations, and legislation that would extend inspection schedules for new buildings made with lower-risk materials. The full report may be viewed [here](#) and the video may be viewed [here](#).