

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

**KEITH POWERS**



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**May 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6**

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**Highlights**

- In honor of Mother's Day, my office is partnering with the nonprofit Room to Grow to collect toys and toddler clothing for New York families. It takes less than 5 minutes to help!

1. Pick an item (or two!) to donate off our Mother's Day wish list (<https://a.co/4ZZBpJZ>)
2. Write your name and email address in the gift message section at check-out
3. Check out and you're all done!

Your donations will ship automatically to Room to Grow and are immediately taken home by local families in their program. Thank you for all of your support!

- In 2019, I worked with the mayor's office to fund much-needed renovations to the Tudor Grove Playground. At the time, I fought to ensure that the adjacent Mary O' Connor Playground would stay open so that residents would have access to a playground at any given moment. This proved to be the right call, since the pandemic and resulting supply-chain complications delayed the project timeline. Nonetheless, I am pleased to report that the Tudor Grove Playground remodeling is complete and the site can now be enjoyed by the public - just in time for summer! Construction work has now shifted to the adjacent Mary O' Connor Playground.
- My office has been notified by the city and concerned constituents that a new shelter will soon be opening at 130 E 39th street. Although the City Council has no formal role in selecting the site during the planning process, I have previously advocated for the community to be given appropriate notice when the location of a new shelter is selected. We were informed about this shelter in late April and the shelter is scheduled to open in July. This shelter will be operated by Midway Living and have 200 beds intended for homeless families with children.

I have asked the Department of Homeless Services and Midway important preliminary questions, such as where children will attend school as well as plans for security. We will continue to work with them to get all of these answers as the process is unfolding.

As of April 26th, there are currently almost 15,000 families with children in New York City in the shelter system, including nearly 25,000 children. While there are many shelters for families with children throughout New York City, this would be the first shelter for families with children in Council District 4. The Housing and Homelessness Committee of Community Board 6 will be hosting a meeting virtually on Monday, May 15th at 6:30pm on zoom where Midway Living will be available to answer questions from the community. If you are interested in registering to attend the meeting, please visit the [link here](#).

- The Rent Guidelines Board held a preliminary vote on May 2 to increase rents between 2 to 5% for one year leases 4 to 7% for two year leases. The final vote will be held in June, and increases will affect leases beginning in October. Rent stabilized apartments make up 44% of the city's housing stock and house some 2 million people. In the face of a severe housing crisis, they are a lifeline for affordable apartments and ensuring the middle-class can afford to live in New York City. Given the double-blows of record high inflation and rent prices, I do not believe rents should be increased. I was proud to add my name to a letter by Council Member Pierina Sanchez, the Chair of the Housing Committee, denouncing the rent hikes and I rallied with tenants ahead of the vote. I was also encouraged to see Mayor Adams, who appoints board members, weigh in that these hikes are too much. Between now and June, my colleagues and I on the City Council will do everything we can to bring these hikes down and keep these apartments affordable.