



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JULIE MENIN



Council Member Julie Menin May 2023 Community Board 6 Report

- 1. Participatory Budgeting:** Our office is proud of the extremely successful cycle of Participatory Budgeting which was just completed last month. 4,458 votes were cast marking a record for the most in the District's history. The vote total was also the highest in Manhattan and the 2nd most out of 29 Council Districts that participated. Due to the incredible community engagement demonstrated across the District, Julie decided to allocate additional funding so the top 6 projects will now all be funded in the upcoming budget. These winning projects are:
 - New Trees and Tree Guards for District 5 (\$150,000)
 - New Security System for PS 198 and PS 77 (\$450,000)
 - Lighting Upgrades for Stanley Isaacs Park (\$420,000)
 - Technology upgrades for MS 114 (\$105,232)
 - Ps 217 Bathroom Upgrades (\$300,000)
 - New Security Cameras for NYCHA's Holmes Towers (\$500,000).Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to seeing these projects take effect across our district.
- 2. Upcoming Spring Parks Events:** District 5 ranks 47th out of 51 across the City in terms of green space. That is why it's critical to take advantage of the limited space we do have with strong programming. Julie is looking forward to the slew of great Parks events we are sponsoring as we move into Spring. This Saturday, May 13th, please join us at John Jay Park from 12pm - 3pm for our office sponsored family funday event. There will be music, bouncy houses, and other carnival attractions. Julie will be back at the park Saturday May 20th for her bike helmet giveaway and compost giveaway both happening from 11am to 2:30pm. Stay tuned for updates on our June events including the return of tango classes at Sutton Place Park.
- 3. Swim Lessons Bill:** Since 2008, 58 New Yorkers have needlessly died at New York City pools and beaches from drowning. These deaths are unacceptable and preventable. Last month, Julie's bill to address this issue had a hearing. Advocates from across the city came out to testify in support. The bill calls upon the city to provide children ages 13 and under with swimming lessons for zero cost. This is an initiative that will help keep our city's most vulnerable swimmers safe. We look forward to working to pass this bill.
- 4. Small Business Month:** Last week, Julie had the pleasure of Joining Mayor Adams, SBS Commissioner Kim, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards in kicking off



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Small Business Month. As chair of the Small Business Committee, Julie has been working to make it easier for small businesses to succeed by streamlining their interactions with government agencies. At the Small Business Week Kickoff, Julie celebrated the success of the Administration's efforts to reduce burdensome fines and violations. Julie has been a strong advocate for these changes and the robust efforts since the Administration took office have netted over \$20 million in savings for small businesses across the City.

5. **Crackdown on Illegal Smoke Shops:** As Julie continues to combat the proliferation of unlicensed and illegal smoke shops across our city, she is proud to announce that she now has a super majority on her bill Intro 995. This bill calls upon the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) to create a public awareness campaign educating NYC families on the perils posed by cannabinoids sold at illegal smoke shops. We look forward to working to push this bill through the Council. Julie also announced recent success from our office in facilitating DCWP inspections and violations of unlicensed shops operating near our District's schools. You can [read more here](#) and we request that you continue to report unlicensed locations to our office.