

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



June 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

Highlights

- In May, the Rent Guidelines Board held a preliminary vote to increase rents between 2% and 5% for one year leases and 4% to 7% for two year leases. In the midst of a severe housing crisis and record high rents, this is an outrage. Rent stabilized apartments make up 44% of the city's housing stock and are a lifeline to some 2 million middle-class New Yorkers. To prevent these hikes from taking place, it is crucial that our voice is heard loud and clear. In the coming month, RGB will be hosting a series of hearings where the public can provide testimony on the rent hikes. The hearings, which you can [register for here](#), will all be held between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on the following days:
 - Monday, June 5th at Hostos Community College (Bronx)
 - Thursday, June 8th at Jamaica Performing Arts Center (Queens)
 - Tuesday, June 13 over Zoom
 - Thursday, June 15 at St. Francis College (Brooklyn)

The fact that there is no in-person public meeting being held in Manhattan makes no sense. The borough has a plurality of the city's rent stabilized apartments and before the pandemic used to have not one but two meetings in the borough. Early in the month, the entire Manhattan delegation in the City Council joined me in sending a letter to the board demanding a meeting be added in Manhattan. On May 24, RGB Chair Nestor Davidson responded to our letter promising that the first portion of the June 13 meeting will be reserved for testimony from Manhattan only. While we continue to push for an in-person meeting, we are pleased to have secured this concession.

- On June 8th, the City Council approved an ambitious [Zero Waste Package](#) consisting of some of the most ambitious environmental reforms in several years. A key pillar of the package is the CORE Act that I have been championing for several years. The act will dramatically expand equitable access to composting and recycling by establishing a minimum of three drop-off sites per borough and a minimum of 30 citywide.

This will present New Yorkers with another convenient option on how to dispose of their waste and divert tons of waste from city landfills. Up to a third of our city's waste stream

is compostable and becomes a potent source of methane as it decomposes. Methane is 25 times more potent than Co2 emissions, and channeling this waste into productive uses like fertilizer for our parks will help advance our aggressive - and necessary - climate change goals.

- A beloved local park, Stuyvesant Cove has been closed while the city upgrades coastal infrastructure as part of East Side Coastal Resiliency, which will protect the East Village, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village from a 100-year flood event. Thankfully, on May 31, I was pleased to attend its grand reopening, just in time for the summer! A 16 ton storm surge gate has been added to the park (joining a 45 ton gate at Asser Levy Playground) as well as a new 1,100 foot seawall with pilings that extend 100 feet below ground. New promenades and landscaping have also been added. Overall, the revamped park is looking great and I am excited to join area residents in the new green space throughout the summer.