



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

**JULIE MENIN**



## June 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

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- 1. Passage of Healthcare Transparency Bill:** Julie is thrilled to announce the unanimous passage of her bill establishing the nation's first municipal [Office of Healthcare Accountability](#). Under this new law, hospitals will have to make the prices of their procedures transparent and public. This will empower consumers as it aids patients in making the most informed decisions regarding their medical care. It will also be a significant fiscal boon for the City. New York City currently spends 10% of its annual budget, almost \$11 billion, on municipal employee healthcare. The transparency created will allow the city to better use its purchasing power to negotiate pricing for city employees healthcare. The New York Post Editorial Board notes that [this could save the city up to \\$2 billion annually](#). Julie is looking forward to continuing to work with the Administration on this issue and address rising healthcare costs while empowering patients.
- 2. Curb Your Dog Campaign:** Sanitation and quality of life are top priorities for Julie and that is why our office is continuing with an exciting initiative to address the issue of the proliferation of dog waste on our streets. In response to constituent complaints, our office held a public submission contest for residents and students in the district to create a design and slogan for signs to be placed throughout our district urging and reminding residents of their responsibility to clean up after their dog. Julie is proud to announce that, after reviewing dozens of submissions, East Side resident Ellen Young is the winner! Our team is so grateful for the energy that community members put into this project and are looking forward to the next phase of our community wide effort to keep our sidewalks free of dog waste. We will be working with property management companies, neighborhood organizations, schools, and advocates to get the word out. We will also be funding 250 aluminum signs to be posted on tree pits and buildings. Please spread the word, and let our office know if you or anyone you know would like a sign for your building. All requests can be sent to [HGale@council.nyc.gov](mailto:HGale@council.nyc.gov).
- 3. Pride Month:** Our office is excited to be celebrating the LGBTQ+ community this Pride Month. We embrace the values of acceptance, diversity, and equality that this community continues to exude and and share with our city. Julie is a proud supporter of LGBTQ+ organizations and will continue to fund efforts such as Drag Queen Story Hour. Julie is looking forward to marching with Speaker Adrienne Adams and other council colleagues

at the New York City Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25th. We are hoping to see many of you at this event and wish all of our constituents a very happy Pride Month!

- 4. Cracking Down on Illegal Cannabis:** Julie is dedicated to helping the city crackdown on illegal smoke shops and is making significant strides in levying violations against multiple illegal cannabis stores in our district. Last month, our office worked with the Sheriff's office and NYPD in the execution for two coordinated raids of illegal smoke shops in the neighborhood. All products were seized. This resulted in Sweet Tooth, an illegal cannabis-infused bake shop with an Upper East Side Location right by a school, to be permanently shut down in addition to the closure of their two other Manhattan locations. Due to the consumer safety issues arising from illegal smoke shops, Julie has also introduced a bill, [Intro 0995-2023](#), supported by a supermajority of 35 other council members. This bill urges the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to collaborate with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to inform the public and especially young New Yorkers of the perils posed by purchasing products at these unregulated and illegal businesses. Please continue to reach out to our office to report illegal smoke shop locations.
- 5. Community Tango Classes at Sutton Place Park:** Given that our District ranks 47th out of 51 council districts in green space, Julie has always prioritized funding and supporting our community's parks. This effort includes optimizing our outdoor resources and green space to offer diverse programming to as many members of our community as possible. From now until the end of the month, our office is sponsoring free tango classes that will be held from 4:00pm-5:30pm on Wednesday June 21st and Wednesday June 28th at Sutton Place Park. There will also be classes from 6:00pm-7:30pm on Thursday, June 22nd, and Thursday, June 29th.