

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2023

Friend,

September is [National Hunger Action Month](#). According to the Food Bank for New York City, 1.6 million New Yorkers are grappling with food insecurity. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of groceries in NYC has increased by 15.3%. When wages and resources do not match inflation, folks are left unable to meet their basic needs. This is unacceptable, everyone has a right to receive nutritious meals.

If you are in need of food assistance or navigating the process of applying for [SNAP benefits](#), please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. You can check out a map of community fridges [HERE](#). Also, consider checking out local organizations like [The Met Council on Jewish Poverty](#) if you know of individuals in need of food assistance today. Furthermore, all NYC public school students are entitled to a [free breakfast and lunch daily](#).

See you around the district,

Harvey

EVENTS

Hang with Harvey in the District this Fall!

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein

HANG WITH HARVEY

Upcoming Hangs!

Wednesday, September 20th 5-7 PM

Baruch Plaza (Bernard Baruch Way, 27th St.
between 3rd & Lex)

Wednesday, October 11th 2- 4 PM

Stuyvesant Square Park (2nd Ave & 16th
near the fountain)

Wednesday, October 25th 10 AM- Noon

Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (E 47th close
to 1st Ave)



Join me at one of the following Hang with Harvey events this fall. I want to hear from you about issues in our neighborhoods. Please call 212-979-9696 with any questions!

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, September 20th from 5 PM to 7 PM
 - **Location:** Baruch Plaza (Bernard Baruch Way on 27th Street between 3rd and Lex)
- Wednesday, October 11th from 2 PM to 4 PM
 - **Location:** Stuyvesant Square Park (2nd Ave and 16th St. near the fountain)
- Wednesday, October 25th from 10 AM to Noon
 - **Location:** Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (E 47th close to 1st Ave)

Summer Social with Community Leaders

END OF SUMMER SOCIAL W/ COMMUNITY LEADERS

THURSDAY, SEP 21 | 7-9PM
STRAUS HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS ROOM
ENTRANCE: 225 EAST 27TH ST



EMPIRE STATE  INDIVISIBLE

Join Assemblymember Epstein, [Empire Indivisible](#), the [Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club](#), [Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats](#), [Councilmember Carlina Rivera](#), and more for a summer social focused on connectivity, community, and organizing. **This event will take place on Thursday, September 21st from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Straus Houses Performing Arts Room (225 E 27th Street).**

Advance Legal Planning Clinic- Tuesday, September 26th from 3 PM to 5 PM

ADVANCE PLANNING LEGAL CLINIC

LEARN ABOUT POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND HEALTH CARE PROXIES

THE ADVANCED DIRECTIVES WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH CARE PROXIES AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY. THESE ARE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM LIFE'S UNCERTAINTIES BY APPOINTING A TRUSTED AGENT TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF IN HEALTH AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

MEMBERS OF CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL'S BET TZEDEK CLINIC WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS AND SOME OF THE THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN FILLING THEM OUT, FOLLOWED BY AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS. AFTER THE PRESENTATION, TRAINED AND SUPERVISED LAW STUDENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU IN FILLING OUT AND EXECUTING A HEALTH CARE PROXY AND POWER OF ATTORNEY.

Tuesday, September 26th

3:00 PM- 5:00 PM

UJC Lillian Wald Senior Center

12 Avenue D

Please call 212-979-9696 to RSVP



UJC Lillian Wald Senior Center has partnered with our office for an Advanced Legal Planning Clinic on Tuesday, September 26th from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. **This will be held at 12 Avenue D.** Information will be available about healthcare proxies and power of attorney.

Hang with Harvey and Homer



**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
HARVEY EPSTEIN**

**HANG WITH
HARVEY &
HOMER**

Community Event

**Wednesday, September 27th
5 PM to 7 PM**

**Bellevue Park (between 1st & 2nd
Ave)**

You & your pet are invited to meet
Assemblymember Harvey Epstein &
District 74's First Dog Homer at the
park! Homer is a rescue dog & a
gentle giant who loves people & pets
alike!



Grab your dog and head over to Bellevue Park (between 1st and 2nd Ave) on Wednesday, September 27th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Homer is a gentle giant and would love to meet your dog while we discuss any legislative or community concerns that may be on your mind. We will also be handing out goodies. We hope to see you there!

Shredding Event with DSNY

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein &
Department of Sanitation

SHREDDING TRUCK!



WHEN: Sunday, October 1st from
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, October 8th

WHERE: Tompkins Square Park (E
8th Street & Ave B)

WHAT: No electronics or batteries,
paper only. One standard size file
Box (15" x 12" x 10") per person.

Please call 212-979-9696 or email
district74@nyassembly.gov with any
questions.



On Sunday, October 1st, Team Harvey will host a shredding event in Tompkins Square Park (E 8th Street and Ave B) with DSNY from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. No electronics or batteries, paper only. One standard-size file Box (15" x 12" x 10") per person. The rain date is October 8th.

HARVEY'S HEADLINES

Connecting our Community



Last Tuesday, I gathered with [CODA](#), [Henry Street Settlement](#), [Jobs Plus](#), and [District Leaders](#) Aura and Marquis for a Community Social. We met at [La Sala de Pepe y Foto Espacio](#), a wonderful social club on Ave C. We discussed local issues, talked to people about how to get involved with community education councils (CECs), and community boards, and participants got connected with organizations and community efforts that they were passionate about. If you missed this one, do not worry, we have one coming up on September 21st (info above).

New York Eye & Ear Infirmary Rally



This summer, I joined Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Congressman Nadler, community leaders, doctors, 1199 workers, and healthcare and disability advocates, outside of New York Eye and Ear Infirmary to [highlight a critical step](#) taken by the State Department of Health to slow an attempt by the Infirmary's parent corporation, Mount Sinai Beth Israel (MSBI), to merge with the 200-year-old Infirmary. This merger could set the stage for the loss of healthcare services and hospital beds and the eventual sale of the Infirmary's valuable real estate.

In a victory for the community-led opposition to the merger, the Department of Health (DOH) signaled in a June [letter](#) to MSBI its approval of the merger would be subject to ten conditions and contingencies that must be met by the hospital giant within one year. In the letter, the Department prohibits the closure of clinical programs and services as a result of the merger and stipulates a comprehensive community engagement plan that requires MSBI to explain its long-term plans for the Infirmary.

NYE&EI serves tens of thousands of patients annually and its location in the heart of the East Side and the mix of services at a single site make these services more easily accessible to New Yorkers who rely on them—many of whom face physical disabilities. This rally sent a clear message that MSBI will be held accountable to these contingencies in the letter and that elected officials, doctors, patients, union members, and members of the community will not tolerate a healthcare provider that prioritizes cash over care and community.

Police Academy HERRC Visit





On August 8th, Team Harvey toured the Police Academy HERCC site which houses 260 asylum seekers. We spoke with individuals and staff to learn about things that were working and areas for improvement. We learned that access to laundry is a large issue for people staying here because they only have access to a washer/dryer once every 3 weeks for 1 load of laundry. The beds are approx. 1 inch apart from each other. People staying there have access to wifi, phone charging stations, and showers. A hot meal is provided once a day for dinner and the rest of the time cold options are available. It was great to speak with the individuals staying there and staff about areas for improvement to best welcome these newcomers to our city.

Apply to the District 74 Youth Council



Do you know a high schooler looking to gain community service and leadership experience? Scan this QR code for an application to the District 74 Youth Council! Youth Council Members help Assembly Member Harvey Epstein determine legislative priorities. The Youth Council gives members an opportunity to organize around issues they care about and get more involved in their community. Applications are due September 30th.

New Office Walk-In Hours



NEED HELP?

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL IF YOU NEED HELP
CONNECTING WITH RESOURCES OR HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS.

Constituent walk-in hours are from **Tuesday – Friday from 10:00am – 5:00pm**. To avoid a long wait time, you may wish to schedule an in-person appointment by calling us at 212-979-9696.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at **212-979 – 9696** or send us an email at Help.District74@gmail.com. In the subject line of the email please include your **Full Name, Address, Phone Number and Email**.

We do our best to respond to all inquiries within 24-72 hours, however this timeline can vary depending on the complexity of your case and our existing caseload.

In order to best serve you, we have updated our office walk-in hours. If you need assistance outside of this timeframe please call my office at 212-979-9696.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Advocating for the Closure of Rikers



In August, I visited Rikers to see the conditions incarcerated people are living in as they await trial. We must bear witness to these conditions and work towards solutions to decarceration and diversion as well as reduce our prison population. Despite plans to close Rikers, there are still 6,200 people living there. Rikers is full of people struggling with mental health crises and the pains of poverty—many of these folks need resources, not jail time. We must close Rikers and put more resources into our communities.

The day after my visit, I joined VOCAL NY, NYC Jail Action Coalition, and Housing Works in a rally outside of City Hall. I shared about my visit to Rikers and advocated for decarceration and an expansion of treatment options to address the root causes of incarceration. I believe we must have open discussions about the next steps toward a more equitable New York.

Promoting Climate Justice



On August 17th, I met with students from the Sixth Street Community Center Teen Climate Justice Program. It was great to hear their climate stories and learn about their concerns. I also shared my efforts in the Assembly to mitigate the impact of climate change. The possibility of an irreversible climate crisis will impact young people the most and these leaders are doing everything they can to make a positive impact and ensure a greener future for NYC.

Later that afternoon, I joined Renewable Heat Now in Tompkins Square Park to promote the passage of the NY HEAT Act. If this summer's extreme weather has taught us anything, it's that we need to do everything we can to mitigate climate change. Key to this effort is phasing out natural gas infrastructure to make way for more sustainable utilities. In addition to doing this, NY HEAT will cap low-to-middle-income NY residents' energy costs at 6% of their total income. NY HEAT is a win for the environment and a win for New Yorkers and I hope we will see it enacted soon.

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

9/1- 9/23 Construction Bulletin

Click [HERE](#) to access a construction bulletin regarding the Central Business District Tolling Program.

Tenant Helpline



The Mayor's Public Engagement Unit has launched an important new resource for New Yorkers: a live operator Tenant Helpline. The Tenant Helpline is a one-of-a-kind tenant resource to inform New York City tenants about their rights and connect them to housing-related resources, including free legal services. To access the tenant helpline, call 311 and ask for "tenant helpline".

Replacement SNAP/EBT Cards

NYC households can now submit claims to the NYC Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration to request the replacement of SNAP and/or Cash Assistance benefits stolen electronically. Report a stolen EBT card and request a new card by clicking [HERE](#).
