
A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, DECEMBER 2023

Hope you are having a great holiday season! For the fifth year in a row, Team Harvey, in partnership with Loisaida Inc. and [our many fantastic sponsors](#), gave out approximately 1,700 Thanksgiving



meals to folks in need in our community. We distributed 1,500 turkeys, 200 pernils, and 400 bags of pantry staples to folks who may not otherwise have a Thanksgiving meal.

Food insecurity is all too common in our community and people cannot thrive when their basic needs aren't met. We're proud to say that this is our fifth year doing this Turkey Drive and over the years we have given out approximately 5,500 turkeys.

Also, a huge thank you to our amazing staff and fantastic volunteers who helped make it happen. Happy Holidays and I cannot wait to continue serving our neighborhood with you in 2024.

See you around the neighborhood,

Harvey

EVENTS

Team Harvey's Holiday Toy Drive: Thursday, December 14th, and Friday, December 15th from 10 AM to 5 PM



The poster features a circular portrait of a man in a blue shirt in the top left corner. The top right corner contains the 'HARVEY EPSTEIN' logo. The main title 'JOIN US FOR TEAM HARVEY'S HOLIDAY DRIVE' is centered, with 'HOLIDAY' in orange block letters and 'DRIVE' in large, colorful, stylized letters. Below the title, the dates 'Thursday, December 14th - Friday, December 15th' are listed. A call to action reads: 'Brighten a child's holiday season! Donate new, unwrapped toys for kids in our neighborhood!'. A table at the bottom provides the drop-off location and operating hours. At the very bottom, it says 'Questions? Call Team Harvey at 212-979-9696.' The entire poster is set against a dark blue background with white stars.

HARVEY EPSTEIN

**JOIN US FOR
TEAM HARVEY'S**

**HOLIDAY
DRIVE**

**Thursday, December 14th -
Friday, December 15th**

Brighten a child's holiday season!
Donate new, unwrapped toys for kids in our
neighborhood!

DROP-OFF LOCATION	OPERATING HOURS
Team Harvey Headquarters (107 Ave B)	10: 00 AM - 5:00 PM

Questions? Call Team Harvey at 212-979-9696.

Team Harvey will be collecting **new** toys at our office on Thursday, December 14th, and Friday, December 15th for kids in need in our neighborhood. **Drop off toys between 10:00 AM and 5:00**

PM at our office at 107 Ave B. We need your help to ensure local kids have a magical holiday season.

E-waste Recycling w/ Team Harvey: Sunday, January 7th from 10 AM to 2 PM



FREE

RECYCLE YOUR E-WASTE

Sunday 01/07/2024 10am – 2pm Rain or Shine

Avoid a fine: It's now illegal to discard electronics in the trash !

**DROP OFF SITE: Union Square Park
North Plaza – cars unload along E17th St**

WE ACCEPT: Working & non-working
computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, mice,
cables, TVs, VCRs & DVD players, phones, audio/visual
equipment, cell phones & PDA's

Hosted by **Lower East Side Ecology Center**
Co-hosted by Council Member Carlina Rivera &
NYS Assembly Member Harvey Epstein

For more information:
leseecologycenter.org or 212.477.4022

The electronic waste collection program is made possible by:



Join Team Harvey, the LES Ecology Center, and the Office of Council Member Carlina Rivera for an E-waste recycling event at Union Square Park (North Plaza). Cars can unload on E 17th Street.

Team Harvey's 2024 Townhall: Thursday, January 18th from 6 PM to 8:30 PM



ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN'S

DISTRICT 74 TOWNHALL

Thursday
January 18th,
2024 | 6:00-8:30
PM

LOCATION: NYU DENTAL (345 E 24th STREET)

SNACKS PROVIDED

COME LEARN & GET INVOLVED
WITH:

- Proposed Tech Hub on 1st Ave and 25th St
- Improving Public Safety
- The Campaign to Save Beth Israel Hospital and NYEEI
- Expanding Housing Justice



RSVP:



TINYURL.COM/HARVEY
2024TOWNHALL

(212) 979-9696



District74@nyassembly.gov

Join Team Harvey at NYU Dental (345 E 24th Street) from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM on Thursday, January 18th to learn about community issues & how to get involved. Snacks will be provided. RSVP [HERE](#). Questions? Call 212-979-9696 or email district74@nyassembly.gov.

HARVEY'S HEADLINES

Voicing Concerns at the Mount Sinai Community Forum

On November 28th, I joined hundreds of community members in **opposition** to the closure of Mount Sinai Beth Israel (MSBI). Mount Sinai announced in October 2023 that they were again attempting to close the Beth Israel campus. At this time, they are not proposing opening any other facility for the East Side of Manhattan to fill the gap. If MSBI succeeds in its plan to close, there will no longer be a



full-service hospital below 23rd Street for the entire East Side. While a substantial number of the patients there are Medicaid eligible, they have no plans to help those patients access care in our community. Characteristic of the hospital giant's past actions, the news of Beth Israel's closure was announced without a dialogue with the community it serves—mostly low-income New Yorkers. **Our community's input was clear- our neighborhood needs Beth Israel Hospital to stay open.**

These recent announcements, taken together with Mount Sinai's controversial plan to merge with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEEI), leave an uncertain future for our community's access to healthcare. NYEEI is an essential institution for people with disabilities in our community and this merger destabilizes their healthcare and fragments it across the city. It also raises critical questions about how NYEEI can merge with an entity that is seeking to close.

We'll keep fighting to get the healthcare we need. Our community deserves access to healthcare and the closure of Beth Israel and the unclear future for NYEEI will make it harder for folks in our neighborhood to access critical services. Take action by contacting the New York State Department of Health by mail at Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237, or by email at dohweb@health.ny.gov.

Calling on Mayor Adams to Save Community Composting

Help us restore funding for Community Composting and Composting Outreach!!



NYC just cut ALL funding for community composting and outreach

We no longer have city funding for our three composting sites or our compost outreach program. Big Reuse and eight other community composting organizations will not be able to continue our work without your support.

1. Sign the petition to save community composting at gownyc.org/petition
2. Donate to support our work at bit.ly/giving-big.



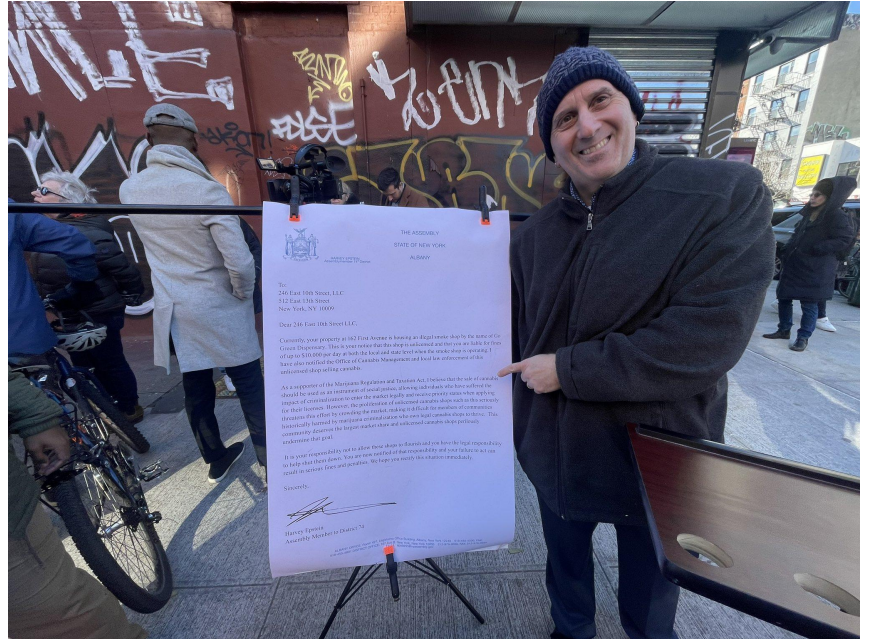
[Mayor Adams announced budget cuts](#) that will end community composting programs across the city. As we know, community composting is an easy way we can make New York more sustainable! Composting must expand, not be eliminated, for NYC to address this threat. Last week, I joined Grow NYC, to call on Mayor Adams to save community compost from proposed budget cuts. Community compost programs:

- ✓ Divert more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills
- ✓ Provide fundamental and essential ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- ✓ Produce & distribute hundreds of thousands of pounds of compost
- ✓ Engage over 1,000 yearly participants in Master Composter activities
- ✓ Provide Community Outreach to over 600,000 New Yorkers
- ✓ Operate 6 Community Composting sites
- ✓ Employ 115 New Yorkers in good Green Jobs

Sign Grow NYC's petition asking Mayor Adams to restore this funding [HERE](#).

Putting Landlords Renting to Illegal Smoke Shops on Notice

Yesterday I hosted a press conference outside an illegal cannabis dispensary in the district and announced our effort to inform landlords about the illegal activity taking place at their properties through dozens of letters our team sent. Illegal shops undermine the legal market and sell unregulated products that may endanger consumers—including minors—because illegal dispensaries often don't enforce ID requirements. Landlords have a responsibility under state and local law to only lease to tenants who are engaging in legal activities which these stores do not. Landlords are liable for fines of up to \$10,000 per day at both the local and state level when the smoke shop is operating.



I have sent dozens of letters to landlords, including about properties in Community District 6. In addition, I have communicated about all of the illegal locations our office is aware of to the Office of Cannabis Management. If you believe there is an illegal dispensary operating near you, you can read on for how to contact my office about that.

Fighting for CUNY Students and Staff



On December 2nd, I joined CUNY Rising and the PSC Union at the Sing Out, Shout Out calling for increased funding and stronger labor contracts for faculty so that CUNY can continue to be an educational pillar of our city. As a graduate, adjunct, and father of a current law student, I am proud to support this institution. CUNY brings the transformative power of education to so many folks and we must continue to ensure it has the funding and resources to thrive and change lives.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Three of My Bills Became Law!

Recently, Governor Kathy Hochul signed three of my bills into law. The first, [A4504a](#) requires one voting member of the MTA to be a transit-dependent individual with a disability. This bill underscores the importance of having representation in leadership to ensure that our transit system is accessible, equitable, and efficient for all New Yorkers.

Additionally, [A458](#) was signed into law, which provides a deceased tenant's legal representative the option to terminate such tenant's lease upon notice to the landlord. Unless addressed in a residential lease agreement, New York State law does not currently provide the estate of a deceased tenant with the right to terminate the lease upon the death of the tenant. Allowing landlords to hold deceased tenants to their lease terms represents an unreasonable financial burden on the estate and I am glad to say this will no longer be the case.

Additionally, [my bill](#) with Senator Liz Krueger to end the practice of suing SUNY students for tuition arrears in Albany, making it impossible for students to defend themselves without traveling there, was signed into law. Attorney General Tish James rightfully ended this policy and now our laws prevent it.

Unfortunately, two of my bills were also vetoed, but the fight will certainly continue next session to make these laws. [A05074](#) once again passed the Senate and Assembly but was vetoed by Governor Hochul for the second year in a row. This bill ensures New Yorkers who are court-mandated to attend a substance use treatment program can exercise their right to participate in a nonreligious treatment program. We know that substance use treatment works best when the program aligns with the beliefs and values of the person receiving treatment.

Also, [A1191B](#) was vetoed which requires the Department of Environmental Conservation, in coordination with NYSERDA, to submit an annual agency climate expenditure report. This bill would have created a thorough accounting of funds allocated and spent toward meeting the state's climate goals.

Clean Slate Bill Signing



On November 16th, I joined Governor Hochul for the signing of the [Clean Slate Act](#), sponsored by Senator Myrie and Assembly Member Cruz. As a proud co-sponsor, this was a momentous occasion. Over 2 million New Yorkers with certain prior convictions will be able to have their record sealed after 3 years (misdemeanor) or 8 years (felony), allowing them to access housing, education, and employment. This bill has widespread support from businesses to labor to justice-involved folks. People should not be judged by the worst day in their lives for the rest

of their lives. Learn more [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

AD 74 Illegal Cannabis Shop Locations

Over the summer I sent a letter to the Office of Cannabis Management urging them to stop the proliferation of illegal cannabis shops in our district and across the city. You can read it [here](#). These illegal shops threaten the legal market which was designed to ensure the safety of consumers and to enable New Yorkers disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition to participate in the new industry first.

Under regulations promulgated by the Office of Cannabis Management, all regulated, licensed dispensaries must post the [Dispensary Verification Tool](#) near their main entrance. To verify a dispensary is operating legally, you can visit this webpage where all legal dispensaries are listed: <https://cannabis.ny.gov/dispensary-location-verification>.

If you notice what you believe to be an unlicensed dispensary or another type of business that you believe is selling cannabis illegally, you can fill out the form linked [HERE](#). Under new legislation

passed as a part of the state budget, OCM can take action to close down illegally operating businesses once they have been identified and investigated.

Fire Damaged/ Vacate Order Apartments

If you have been displaced from your apartment due to a fire and/or a vacate order has been issued for your apartment or the entire building by any New York City agency or local municipal agency, and if you are subject to Rent Regulation, you may file an application with the Office of Rent Administration for a rent reduction based on decreased services. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

EBT Skimming Replacement Benefits Deadline Extension

Previously, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) stated that the below households impacted by electronic benefit theft had until October 31, 2023 (or 30 days from the date of discovery) to submit claims for replacement benefits:

- Households that had SNAP benefits stolen from October 1, 2022, to August 20, 2023 and/or
- Households Cash Assistance benefits stolen from January 1, 2022, to August 20, 2023.

Effective November 1, 2023, the deadline for these households has been extended through December 31, 2023. Retroactive claims submitted through December 31, 2023 (or 30 days from the date of discovery) for the theft periods above will be considered timely and eligible for replacement (so long as all other conditions are met). All other retroactive claims that fall outside of the periods listed above must be submitted within 30 days from the date the household discovered the theft.

Visit [OTDA's website](#) or [HRA's Benefit Replacement page](#) for more information on the extended submission dates.