



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

JULIE MENIN



- 1. Election update** - As many of you are aware, Julie was reelected last month after nearly two years in office and was honored by the resounding support from District 5 voters. She is humbled and proud to have the privilege of serving again as Council Member of District 5. This win affirms the work we have done together to move our community and city forward. Starting in January, District 5 has been redistricted to only begin at 58th street, unfortunately losing almost all of Community Board 6. Our office hopes that the community board and its residents continue to use us as a resource and as advocates for the community. In addition, we have been in discussion with Council Member Keith Powers office to inform them of specific concerns and ongoing issues our office has addressed during our two years with Community Board 6.
- 2. Mayor's proposed cuts to essential services** - Julie remains deeply concerned over Mayor Adam's proposed budget cuts presented in his November Plan. It is clear that the city is suffering from a troubling financial burden due to the asylum seeker crisis, but there must be other alternatives to counter the ongoing fiscal crisis that do not include cutting essential city services. Our office has received hundreds of calls and emails from concerned constituents over cuts to education, the potential elimination of city-funded food scrap compost programs, the reduction of police officers on our streets, and the reduction of operating hours in community libraries. Read Julie's full statement below that has been posted online: [Opinion: NYC can save, not cut, billions through the Office of Health Care Accountability - City & State New York](#)
- 3. Hate and Bias Incidents** - Hate has absolutely no place in our city. Over the last few weeks, we've seen a rise in hate and bias incidents in our city. The New York Police Department's Hate Crime Task Force saw an increase of over 100 percent in the number of bias cases investigated, led by a 214 percent spike in anti-Jewish incidents. Several high-profile cases, such as the recent one in Hillcrest High School, have highlighted the seriousness of the situation. [Just before Thanksgiving, viral videos spread on the internet of an individual harassing a street vendor on 83rd Street and 2nd Avenue.](#) This was unacceptable, which is why Julie immediately contacted the NYPD's 19th Precinct and requested a swift investigation which resulted in hate crime charges.

Our office has worked alongside the NYPD's 19th Precinct to ensure that our district remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone, and will continue to do so. Moving forward, we remain committed to staying in close contact with the NYPD and the Hate Crime Task Force to support them in any future investigation in any way we can.

- 4. Mayor Signs Bills Reducing Small Business Violations and the Office of Nightlife** - Last month, Julie was thrilled to have passed two of her City Council bills, both of which were recently signed by the mayor. [Intro 845](#) will reduce fines on small businesses and provide them with an opportunity to “cure” violations given to them without incurring a fine. This bill helps reduce the financial burden on small businesses that incur violations by giving them an opportunity to address the violation in an expedited and no-cost manner. The bill also streamlines regulations between major city agencies, reducing the chances for excessive and unreasonable violations. In addition, [Intro 1083](#) moves the Office of Nightlife from the Mayor’s Office to the Department of Small Business Services. With this small but incredibly important change, the Office of Nightlife will now count on a large experienced and knowledgeable support staff, prepared to support some of our most important small businesses across the city.

- 5. Participatory Budgeting**: Our office is happy to report that the Online Idea Submission Portal for the 2024 Participatory Budgeting cycle has been launched and is currently accepting capital improvement proposals. A total of one million dollars of our office’s discretionary budget allocation can be used for physical infrastructure projects that benefit the public, cost at least \$50,000, and have a lifespan of at least 5 years. For example, projects such as local improvements to schools, parks, libraries, housing, and other public spaces can be funded. Constituents have until the end of the month to submit their ideas on the portal, which can be found online at <https://ideas.pbnyc.org/>. Last year, our office received the most votes of any participating district in Manhattan and the second most of all 29 total participating districts. We hope to do even better this year and need your help generating capital improvement proposals this cycle!