

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN
(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



April 2014

Dear Neighbor:

I'm happy to share with you an update on issues in Albany and across our Senate District. In particular, please note below the May 15 public forum I'm holding on my [legislation](#) barring sexual orientation change "therapy" for minors, the Governor's Citizen Preparedness Training that I'm co-sponsoring at Bellevue on May 12, and information on where to report all of the potholes which proliferated during our harsh winter. As always, let me know if you have any questions about these issues or if there are other ways I can be helpful.

All best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

State Senator
27th District



Passage of the 2014-2015 New York State Budget

On March 31, the New York State Senate passed the State Budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The budget contained some sound policies, including the creation of a 30% rent cap for low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS, [an issue that I championed](#) with advocates, Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio. The budget also contains funding for Universal Pre-K, modernized standards for HIV testing, an increase to the SCRIE eligibility threshold to provide relief for seniors, and an increase in funding for the state's Environmental Protection Fund, rape crisis centers, and homelessness prevention.

Among items I voted against were the defunding of the Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, provisions stripping local control over co-location decisions for charter schools in New York City, and the exclusion of a plan for public financing for all state offices. (*The New York Times* noted my opposition to ending the Moreland Commission, which you can read [here](#)). I hope the Senate will act swiftly to bring a comprehensive ethics and public campaign reform package to the floor. I was also disappointed the budget did not include the NYS DREAM Act or provisions granting New York City local control over traffic safety initiatives as part of the mayor's Vision Zero plan. Please see my complete statement on the budget [here](#).

Speed Cameras for School Zones

Today, April 30, the State Senate authorized 120 new speed cameras for school zones across New York City. This legislation is part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative to reduce traffic fatalities and was shown to be successful in a limited pilot program that resulted in almost 12,000 tickets issued to speeding drivers in just over a month. Speed camera programs in other U.S. cities have proven effective in reducing accidents and pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Please see my statement on this important legislation [here](#).

Public Forum on Sexual Orientation Change "Therapy"

On Thursday, May 15, State Assembly Member Deborah Glick, State Senator Michael Gianaris and I will be holding a forum on our legislation that would ban licensed mental health professionals from providing sexual orientation change "therapy" to minors ([S.4917-B/A.6983-B](#)). So-called "conversion therapy" or "reparative therapy" is widely discredited by leading health organizations and poses risks to LGBT kids, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide. The forum will be held at 10 a.m. in the Senate Hearing Room at 250 Broadway, 19th Floor in Manhattan. Please see the hearing notice [here](#), and complete and submit the response form if you wish to testify or attend.



Milestone for Our New Middle School at 75 Morton Street

On March 24, New York State officially transferred the building it owned at 75 Morton Street to the NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) for a new District 2 middle school for approximately 800 students. This milestone is good news for local schoolchildren and their families, who have endured middle school overcrowding for years. I thank my colleagues in government, especially Assembly Member Deborah Glick, and Community Education Council 2, the 75 Morton Task Force and Community Alliance, and Community Board 2, for their persistence in making a new middle school at 75 Morton Street a reality. We have more work ahead as we enter the construction phase, and I recently helped organize a tour of the facility with SCA, elected officials, and community leaders to get a better understanding of the building's layout (see photo above).

Last week, along with Council Member Corey Johnson, Assembly Member Glick and parent advocates, I met with the Department of Education (DOE) to discuss community engagement for planning the new school. The DOE committed to working closely with stakeholders to develop the structure of the school as expeditiously as possible. To that end, please click [here](#) and [here](#) to see letters I wrote with Assembly Member Glick, Congressman Jerry Nadler, Borough President Gale Brewer, and Council Member Johnson to Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Fariña and the SCA.

Standing with Public School Communities Against High-Stakes Testing

On Friday morning, April 11, my staff and I joined parents, students, and educators at five schools across our Senate District objecting to high-stakes testing and the lack of testing transparency. I stand with school communities in opposition to high-stakes testing, and in particular its use as a measure of student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school performance. We must move away from “teaching to tests,” as well as safeguard sensitive student data. Please click [here](#) to see a letter addressing these important issues that I distributed at rallies at PS 3, PS 11, PS 41, PS 51, and PS 87.

Speaking Out Against 16th Street Overdevelopment

On April 6, I joined Save 16th Street, the 100 West 16th Street Block Association, and Save Chelsea, along with Assembly Member Richard Gottfried and Council Member Corey Johnson in rallying against the proposed 11-story, mid-block development at 124 and 126-128 West 16th Street. Previously, I joined with Assembly Member Gottfried and Council Member Johnson in writing to the Einhorn Development Group to request that it reconsider its plans. The mass of the building will severely undermine the low-rise character of the neighborhood, while depriving many of the surrounding residents of vital light and air. Please see our letter [here](#).

Legislation to Restore Identifying Lights on Select Bus Service

Last week, I introduced legislation (S.7068) to permit New York City Transit (NYCT) to use flashing purple lights on Select Bus Service (SBS) buses, which require riders to pay at a sidewalk machine before boarding rather than paying on-board. SBS Service buses previously utilized identifying lights to alert riders but this feature was suspended last year because of a prohibition in state law. This issue is of importance to me because our district includes significant portions of the [M15](#) and the [M34](#) SBS routes and Manhattan Community Board 6 has called for the return of SBS buses’ identifying lights. For more information, please see my press release announcing the bill [here](#).



Calling for Local Control of Our Public Schools

On Thursday, April 10, I joined Senator Liz Krueger, Council Member Danny Dromm, parents, teachers, and students on the steps of the New York Public Library to protest the State Legislature's subversion of

local control over co-location decisions for New York City charter schools. The education budget bill, which I voted against, extends an unprecedented obligation upon the City to cover the cost for facilities of any new or expanded charter school and was passed without a single public hearing or committee vote. This bill was written with the intention to dilute local control over co-location decisions and deny parents and communities input. Moreover, there is no estimate of the law's fiscal implications, which could amount to tens of millions of dollars for the City and State.

My Call to Shut Down Greenhouse Nightclub Once and for All

Greenhouse nightclub at 150 Varick Street, which has a history of violence, drugs, noise pollution, and general disrespect toward its neighbors, was the site of yet [another violent brawl](#) on April 11. I've been working with constituents and other local elected officials to close Greenhouse and have echoed Community Board 2 in asking the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) to deny a renewal of its liquor license. Though the nightclub voluntarily shut down after an NYPD raid earlier this month, I want to ensure that it does not reopen. The SLA currently has two cases pending against Greenhouse stemming from the ongoing pattern of illegal activity that routinely occurs at the club, and [as *The Villager* noted](#), I have called for the SLA to revoke the club's liquor license. I thank the NYPD's 1st Precinct for responding to the dangerous conditions created by Greenhouse.



Supporting Councilmember Garodnick's Blueprint for Combating Predatory Equity

Last week, I joined City Council Member Dan Garodnick as he unveiled a new report on mitigating the continued problem of predatory equity in affordable housing. I look forward to working with Council Member Garodnick to implement his sound prescriptions to preserve our city's affordable housing stock and protect tenants. As 25,000 of my [constituents at Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village are all too aware](#), we must act to disincentivize real estate speculators from making over-leveraged gambles on the backs of residents. You can read Council Member Garodnick's press release and link to his report [here](#).

Smartphone "Kill Switch" Agreement Announced by Wireless Communications Industry

On April 15, CTIA, The Wireless Association, a trade organization for the wireless communications industry, [announced](#) that major smartphone manufacturers and wireless carriers will offer free anti-theft features on all new smartphones made after July 2015. This is an important acknowledgement on the part of the industry that it must take action to protect consumers' personal information in the event their smartphones are lost or stolen, which is what I have advocated in my legislation, the *Smartphone and Tablet Security Act* ([S.6748/A.9070](#))

I applaud CTIA for responding to law enforcement, consumers, and policymakers and congratulate New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman for his [national leadership](#) on this issue. I echo the Attorney General's call for the industry to expedite implementation of this commitment and will continue to work with the industry and my colleagues in the legislature on making the "kill switch" a default feature on smartphones.

Honoring Stuy Town Desegregation Leader Lee Lorch on the Senate Floor

On March 25, the New York State Senate passed my resolution mourning the death of Lee Lorch, a leader in the effort to desegregate Stuyvesant Town. Metropolitan Life, which built the complex, barred African-American residents from 1947 until 1950, until capitulating to pressure from Mr. Lorch and others. In retaliation for Mr. Lorch's activism, Mr. Lorch was forced to leave Stuyvesant Town, though he continued to fight racial discrimination. I was honored to have the opportunity to speak on the floor of the Senate about the life and legacy of this quiet civil rights hero. You can see video of my remarks [here](#) and find the text of the resolution honoring Mr. Lorch [here](#).

Honored as an AIDS Warrior by Bailey House and as a Democratic Leader by Tilden Democratic Club

On March 27, I was recognized by [Bailey House](#), a non-profit provider of housing and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, as a winner of its Rodger McFarlane AIDS Warrior Award. Along with my co-honorees, Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez and advocacy organization VOCAL-NY, I helped spearhead the successful effort to secure a 30%-of-income rent cap for people in the city's HIV/AIDS Services Administration Rental Assistance Program.

On April 24, I received the [Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club's](#) Beth R. Cosnow Award for Democratic Leadership from District Leader Steve Smollens. Cosnow was a renowned Democratic community leader on the East Side, a women's and environmental rights activist and a 22-year district leader. I'm honored to have received an award in her name and to have been recognized by my partners in the Tilden Democratic Club for my efforts in Albany and our Senate District.

Co-Sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training May 12th

I'm co-sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training on Monday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Bellevue Hospital Center, 462 First Avenue at 27th Street. Through the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, approximately 100,000 New Yorkers will be provided with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Each household that participates will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes a plastic drop cloth, light stick, regular flashlight, first aid kit, and more. All participants must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov or by calling Governor Cuomo's Special Assistant for Community Affairs, Erik Bottcher, at [212-681-4605](tel:212-681-4605).

"Senator Pothole"?

Potholes on our streets are threats to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. If you see a pothole in your neighborhood, report it using DOT's special "Report a Pothole" site [here](#) or by calling 311. Please don't forget to let me know the Defect ID number you're given so I can follow up. You can contact me at [212-633-8052](tel:212-633-8052) or at hoylman@nysenate.gov.

NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
322 Eighth Avenue
Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001 United States