

# NEWS FROM

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



**January 2014**

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update on some of my recent activities in Albany and the district, plus information about Super Bowl events in our district, a forum I'm co-sponsoring this Thursday on a proposed liquefied natural gas tanker port located off Long Island, and cold weather tips. Please let me know if you have any questions about these issues or how I can be helpful.

Regards,

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

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator  
27th District

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## **Super Bowl Events**

Earlier this month I worked with the Mayor's Office and other elected officials to organize a briefing for affected community boards on the many events going on in our district for the Super Bowl this Sunday, February 2. While the Mayor's Office was able to allay many concerns surrounding these events, there may still be issues that arise. If you encounter any problems or noise issues, 311 will have a special Super Bowl Team directly connected to the organizers. Please share any concerns or complaints -- including the 311 case number - - with my office so that my team can follow up. Click [here](#) for the city's official guide to Super Bowl events and click [here](#) to download the NYPD's guide to events and tips for staying safe on Super Bowl Boulevard, which stretches along Broadway from 34th Street to 47th Street.

## **Counting Down to Vision Zero**

On January 15, Mayor de Blasio [launched an interagency working group](#) to design the implementation of "Vision Zero," his plan to eliminate traffic fatalities within a decade through a combination of reduced traffic speeds, increased enforcement, pedestrian and bike safety protections, and other measures. I commend the Mayor for his bold plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero within 10 years. Last year, there were nearly as many traffic fatalities as there were homicides in New York City, and I'm eager to support his efforts in Albany and our district. Toward that end, I'll be hosting a Pedestrian and Traffic Safety forum in February to educate neighbors on the Mayor's new plan and how pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can co-exist more safely on our streets. The details will be announced shortly, but in the meantime, please contact me at [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:2126338052) for more information.

### **Panel this Thursday on Proposed Offshore Energy Projects**

I am co-sponsoring a free public forum being held by United for Action this Thursday, January 30 on "Tankers, Turbines and Our Offshore Energy Future." Panelists will alert the public about a proposed [liquified natural gas tanker port off Long Island](#), address the benefits and drawbacks of offshore wind, and discuss what actions we can take to ensure New York embraces a forward-thinking energy policy. The event will begin at 6:30pm at Rutgers Presbyterian Church at 236 West 73rd Street near Broadway. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Push for Major Hike in Education Aid**

On January 13, I joined the Alliance for Quality Education at a [press conference](#) calling on Governor Cuomo to increase school aid by \$1.9 billion in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Executive Budget and sent a letter to the same effect signed by 82 State Senate and Assembly colleagues. The state is still lagging in funding public schools. We must fully and equitably fund the New York City education system and school districts throughout the state, as mandated by the Court of Appeals' order in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit. Please see our letter [here](#).

### **30% Rent Cap for Low-Income People with HIV/AIDS**

Over the past several months, I have been working with advocates from VOCAL-NY as well as other elected officials and HIV/AIDS activists to ensure the state's fiscal year 2014-15 budget includes funding to implement a 30%-of-income rent contribution cap for low-income, disabled people in the state's HIV/AIDS rental assistance program. Every other affordable housing program in the state already has such a rent contribution cap. I carry legislation with Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez ([S.3022/A.7782](#)) that would accomplish this goal. Please click [here](#) to see a recent news article about my efforts.

### **State Supreme Court Ruling on NYU Expansion Plan**

I am gratified that earlier this month the State Supreme Court [affirmed](#) what we in the community have said for years: the public park strips on Mercer Street and LaGuardia Place cannot be given to NYU without approval by the State Legislature. The gardens and playground on this land were developed and maintained by local residents on behalf of our neighborhood, which is starved for open space. I was proud to help lead Manhattan Community Board 2 when it passed its unanimous resolution in opposition to the NYU 2031 plan. With this decision, NYU must develop a plan that protects our public open space and the character of the neighborhood. Please click [here](#) to see a joint letter I spearheaded asking the university to reconsider the plan in its entirety and provide the community and faculty members a significant role in a revived public process.

### **Supporting Justice for Rape Victims**

On January 11, I joined Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Assembly Member Dan Quart and brave rape survivor Natasha Alexenko, to call on the federal government to reduce the dangerous national rape-kit backlog and reauthorize the "Justice for All Act." Natasha was forced to wait 15 years for the evidence she needed to convict her attacker due to the rape-kit processing backlog, currently estimated at 400,000 cases. This act will increase funding for DNA evidence processing to ensure that medical examiners across the country have the tools to process evidence for criminal cases quickly and accurately. I am grateful to Congresswoman Maloney for her leadership and will continue to support her efforts to ensure that victims of rape and sexual assault are provided the evidence to pursue justice. For more information, please see Congresswoman Maloney's press release [here](#).

### **Protecting the New York Public Library**

Last week I sent a letter to Mayor de Blasio applauding his opposition to the renovation plan

for the New York Public Library's Central Library as New York City Public Advocate. I expressed my deep concern about several of the proposed changes presented in the plan, namely the displacement of the stacks, which are a crucial resource to researchers, and consolidation of the Mid-Manhattan and Science, Industry and Business libraries into a space less than one-third their current size. Numerous community groups are also opposed to the plan, and I joined their call to halt the process and for an independent review of the financial risks of and possible alternatives to the current plan. Please see my letter [here](#).

### **Fighting Dangerous LGBT Conversion "Therapy"**

This month, along with Assembly Member Deborah Glick and Senator Mike Gianaris, I reintroduced legislation that would bar licensed mental health providers from engaging patients under 18 in sexual orientation change efforts, sometimes known as conversion "therapy." New Jersey and California have already passed this legislation and now New York should do the same. This practice has been thoroughly discredited by experts, including the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association, and poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Click [here](#) to see a recent *Wall Street Journal* article on my efforts to protect our kids from this practice.

### **Clinical Guidelines Released on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV**

On January 14, the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute released long-awaited clinical guidelines for the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV infection among those at high risk. PrEP is a relatively new intervention to prevent HIV transmission, in which people who do not have HIV take a daily pill to reduce their risk of becoming infected. A lack of awareness and understanding of PrEP among both providers and prospective patients has suppressed its use. Since last summer, I have worked with activists from ACT UP/NY and Treatment Action Group to urge the NYS AIDS Institute to expedite release of its clinical guidance document, both to promote PrEP's effective use in our state and to inform medical providers far beyond our borders who look to New York as a leader in HIV/AIDS policy. The new PrEP guidelines for clinicians are available [here](#). Please find the AIDS Institute's PrEP fact sheet for consumers [here](#).

### **Governor Cuomo's 2014 State of the State Address**

On January 8, Governor Cuomo delivered a State of the State on a wide range of topics including ethics reforms, economic development, education and infrastructure improvement. In particular, I am encouraged by the Governor's commitment to implementing the good government reforms suggested by the Moreland Commission, including public financing of elections. And I'm grateful that the Governor reaffirmed his commitment to the full ten-point *Women's Equality Act*, including a woman's right to choose. Please click [here](#) to read my full statement on the Governor's 2014 State of the State.

### **Fire Safety**

As you may have heard, on January 5 there was a [fire in a high-rise in our district](#), in which one person died and another was critically injured. This tragedy serves as a reminder of the particular risks that fires pose in our high density environment. Please remember to familiarize yourselves with your apartment's fire safety plan. By law, apartment buildings with three or more units must develop such plans with detailed building information and make them available to residents. Be sure to contact your landlord or building management if you do not have a copy. You should also have an evacuation plan and ensure your household has a designated meet-up point outside your building in case your family is separated in an emergency. I urge you to review additional fire safety recommendations from FDNY [here](#). As always, you can call my office at [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:212-633-8052) for help.

### **Exercise Caution During Extreme Weather**

Frigid temperatures like those we've had in New York City lately pose a real threat to people's health and well-being. It may seem obvious, but dressing appropriately for the weather—including gloves, hats, insulated outerwear and waterproof footwear—while limiting your time outdoors is the only truly effective way to stay safe and healthy during a cold snap. Additionally, New Yorkers should make every effort to check in on elderly and vulnerable neighbors to ensure their safety. Also, remember, landlords are legally required to maintain an inside, daytime temperature of at least 68° F if the outside temperature falls below 55° F, and a nighttime, inside temperature of at least 55° F if the outside temperature outside falls below 40° F. If you are not receiving adequate heat in your apartment, you should first notify your landlord and, if they are unresponsive, call 311 and be sure to write down your complaint number. Then contact my office at [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:2126338052) so that we can assist you in getting your heat restored. Click [here](#) for more detailed winter health and safety information from the NYC Office of Emergency Management.