

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN

(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



November 2013

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update on some recent community news, plus information about **signing up for New York's Health Plan Marketplace, a free breast screening event I'm sponsoring on Monday, December 16** and a **Benefit for Survivors of the Philippines Typhoon on Tuesday, November 26**. Please let me know if you have any questions about these issues or how I can be helpful.

Best regards,

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

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Need Help Understanding the New Federal Health Insurance Law?

You, your family or small business may be eligible for [New York State of Health](#), the organized insurance marketplace to help people shop for and enroll in health insurance coverage as part of the new federal *Affordable Care Act*. Individuals and small business owners with 50 or fewer employees qualify. A fact sheet can be found [here](#). Call me at 212-633-8052 if you need additional assistance.

Free Mammograms for Women Over 40 - December 16

On Monday, December 16, I am sponsoring Project Renewal's Scan Van, which will be parked on First Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets to provide free mammograms, by appointment, to women over 40 who haven't had one in the past year. The National Cancer Institute [recommends](#) that women age 40 or older have mammograms every one to two years because studies show that such screenings can help reduce deaths from breast cancer. Space is limited, so please call (800) 564-6868 to make your appointment. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Westiders Coming Together for Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

Community Free Democrats has organized a fundraiser on Tuesday, November 26 for the victims of the devastating Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines on November 8. I am proud to be joining many of my Upper West Side colleagues in government, advocacy organizations and political clubs in co-sponsoring this event taking place at The Parlour, 250 West 86th Street (just west of Broadway) from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The suggested minimum contribution is \$25, although I encourage everyone to give more if possible. Click [here](#) to see the full invitation, or skip right to the RSVP link [here](#) to make your contribution. I hope to see you there!

Include All Impacted Areas in Sandy Community Reconstruction Area

In early summer, as part of Governor Cuomo's NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program, [Lower Manhattan](#) was awarded \$25 million to create and implement locally-created strategies for rebuilding and strengthening the community against future extreme weather. On October 15, the planning committee driving the process proposed a catchment area from the tip of Manhattan to as far north as Canal Street west of Essex Street and up to Delancey Street east of Essex. I was alarmed that many Lower Manhattan communities I represent that were badly damaged by Sandy's storm surges – including the far West Village, West Chelsea, the Lower East Side, Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village and Waterside Plaza – were not included. Click [here](#) to learn what I've been doing to ensure none of the vulnerable areas that are still recovering are left behind.

East Midtown Rezoning Put on Hold

On November 12, the Bloomberg Administration withdrew its East Midtown Rezoning proposal after New York City Councilmember Dan Garodnick and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced that an agreement could not be reached on the proposal. I applaud Councilmember Garodnick and Speaker Quinn for turning back this rezoning and making the sensible decision to hold out for a more thoughtful plan, and the [Tri-Board Task Force on East Midtown](#), comprised of Community Boards 4, 5 and 6, for their advocacy on this issue. To see my statement, please click [here](#).

Senate Education Committee Hearing Assessing the Regents Reform Agenda

On October 29, the State Senate Education Committee held a hearing in Manhattan to review the impact and effectiveness of the reform agenda recently launched by the New York State Board of Regents. I am extremely disappointed by the lack of engagement with parents and educators before or after these standards were adopted. At the hearing I questioned the Education Commissioner's disappointing decision to leave New York City off the initial list of school districts where forums on the Common Core standards will be held; raised concerns about student data privacy, particularly in light of the State

Education Department's decision to contract with the third-party vendors; objected to the overtesting of children, including requiring students to take "field tests" used by vendors to try out perspective test questions; and raised the issue of the impact of stress on test scores. The entire hearing can be viewed online [here](#).

Fighting Against MCI Orders for Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village

Last month, tenants at Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village (ST-PCV) received several Major Capital Improvement (MCI) rent increase orders issued by the New York State Department of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR). These MCI orders, which were approved without consideration of objections filed on behalf of the ST-PCV Tenants Association, will mean sizable rent increases and considerable retroactive charges for tenants. To learn about my efforts to assist tenants in fighting these recent MCI orders, please click [here](#).

Testimony Opposing Proposed Changes to Mitchell-Lama Rules

On November 6, I submitted testimony with Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development on its proposed changes to the rules governing Mitchell-Lama developments, of which there are six in my district. We raised particular objections to the proposed amendments affecting succession rights; establishing procedures for the reconstitution of Mitchell-Lama coops as Housing Development Fund Companies; and weakening the priority for veterans. Such changes would harm Mitchell-Lama tenants and cooperators who have long abided by the rules and embraced the spirit of the program and would undermine the preservation of this vital affordable housing stock. Please see our testimony [here](#).

SantaCon Must Clean Up Its Act

Each year, local elected officials, community boards and local precincts are besieged by complaints as SantaCon, a mass pub crawl of people dressed in Santa Claus costumes, passes through their neighborhoods, and the actions of its participants have a detrimental effect on residents' quality of life. *Chelsea Now* recently published the letter I sent to the SantaCon organizers urging them to work with the New York Police Department and local community boards on a plan for controlling the event. You can read it [here](#).

The Rise in Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes

On October 31, I testified at a hearing held by the New York City Council Committee on Civil Rights regarding the recent rise in anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) crimes in New York City. Through the middle of August, the New York Police Department had reported 68 anti-gay hate crimes this year -- including 41 assaults and two murders -- up from 54 in all of 2012. I highlighted

findings from [my report this summer](#) on the New York Hate Crimes Law, and noted that as government officials, we have a responsibility to protect citizens from bias-motivated attacks, which send a fear-inducing message to all members of the targeted community. Please see my testimony [here](#).

Applauding the ABA for Withdrawing from Russian Investment Event

I was pleased to learn on November 9 that American Bar Association (ABA) President James Silkenat [had withdrawn](#) as the keynote speaker at the November 18 Russia Forum New York, an all-day event with a focus on the Russian investment climate. Days earlier, when I had been made aware of Mr. Silkenat's impending participation, I called him to urge him to withdraw in light of the Russian Federation's raft of discriminatory laws against LGBT people and their families. Please see my statement applauding him for his decision [here](#).

Governor Should Sign Legislation to Crack Down on Puppy Mills

Earlier this month, I joined State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal and other local elected officials in calling on Governor Cuomo to sign a bill she authored [and I co-sponsored](#) in the Senate which makes it easier to crack down on "puppy mills" in New York State. Puppy mills often keep animals in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and the overbreeding typical of these establishments can lead to serious medical conditions which are only discovered after the puppies have been sold to customers.

This bill will allow individual municipalities like New York City to issue regulations for breeders and pet stores, and will help to ensure that the puppies we see in store windows are healthy and began their lives in humane conditions. As a co-sponsor in the Senate, I'm eager to see the Governor sign this bill.

Frackonomics Presentation Now Available Online

Last month, I hosted a presentation by Deborah Rogers, founder of the [Energy Policy Forum](#), on "Frackonomics: Debunking the Financial Myths of Fracking." More than 200 people packed the SVA Theatre on West 23rd Street to hear Ms. Rogers' analysis. If you missed the presentation, you may view it in its entirety on my website [here](#).

Thank You VNSNY for Our Successful Free Flu Shot Event

On October 16, Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) came to my district office to administer free flu shots to constituents from across our district. Over three hours, 88 constituents received flu shots from VNSNY nurses. If you haven't yet received yours, please visit the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's flu prevention website [here](#) to identify a provider near you.

Join Me in Talking Transition

With the first new mayoral administration in twelve years set to begin on January 1, a number of leading New York City foundations are presenting "[Talking Transition](#)," an effort to engage New Yorkers on the city's future. Each day through November 23, the public is invited to stop at the Talking Transition tent at Canal Street and Sixth Avenue to share ideas, attend cultural activities, and participate in programs on a wide range of public policy topics. A schedule of programs is available on the Talking Transition website [here](#), where you can also view a live stream and leave your comments. I hope you'll join me in sharing your questions, stories and ideas for the city's future.

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