

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN

(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



October 2013

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update of some of my recent activities, as well as important information about applying for **the STAR property tax exemption for coop and condo owners** and **New York's new Health Insurance Exchange under the Affordable Care Act** (aka "Obamacare"). If you have any questions about these or other issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

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

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Free Flu Shots - Tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16 in My District Office

On Wednesday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., my office will be providing free flu shots, courtesy of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, to adults as well as to children 9 and over with parental consent. Space is limited and appointments are recommended to guarantee your shot. For more information or to make an appointment, call my office at (212) 633-8052 or email hoylman@nysenate.gov with your complete contact information and the time you would like to come in for your shot.

Governor Cuomo Signs My Bill Mandating Study of Urgent Care Centers

Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed into law my and State Assembly Health Committee Chair Dick Gottfried's legislation which directs the New York State Commissioner of Health to conduct a study of the provision of services at urgent care centers, mini clinics operating within pharmacies and other emerging health care delivery models. Click [here](#) to read more.

Keynote Address at The Annual West Side Tenants' Conference

I was honored to have been invited to give the keynote address at Housing Conservation Coordinators' Annual West Side Tenants' Conference, which was held on September 21 at Fordham Law School. Click [here](#) to read an op-ed I wrote based on my remarks, which appeared in this week's *Town & Village* newspaper.

Demanding Hotel Owners Respect Sandy Evacuees' Rights

I was disturbed to learn on October 4 that thirty Superstorm Sandy evacuees living in hotel rooms in my district and hundreds elsewhere in the city were potentially facing imminent illegal eviction as a result of the City's October 3 termination of its hotel reimbursement program.

Working in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society, I contacted these hotels in my district and local police precincts to apprise them of Section 711 of the NYS Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law. This law protects tenants in good standing who have occupied a room for at least 30 days from eviction without due process in Housing Court.

I am pleased that thus far none of the evacuees has been illegally evicted. Moreover, New York Disaster Interfaith Services is generously offering to reimburse hotel owners for their continued stay. It is important that these hotel owners continue to do the right thing by their fellow New Yorkers and provide shelter for Sandy evacuees.

Critical State Bill to Protect Student Privacy

On September 30, I testified before the New York City Council Committee on Education in strong support of [Resolution No. 1768](#), which calls on the State to pass [A.6059/S.4284](#), of which I am a co-sponsor. The bill, which was introduced by Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, would prohibit the release of students' personally identifiable information to third parties without parental consent. I share the concerns I have heard from constituents who were disturbed to learn earlier this year that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) planned to share confidential student data with the non-profit corporation inBloom Inc., with which NYSED contracted to provide a K-12 student database, as well as other for-profit entities. I strongly believe that our state must not proceed with any initiatives, however well-intentioned, that could compromise the privacy of our public school students without giving parents an opportunity to make informed decisions about their children's participation.

Welcoming Roche Research Center to My District

On October 1, I was honored to speak at the Inauguration of the Roche Translational and Clinical

Research Center at the Alexandria Center for Life Science, located in my Senate District. Roche, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, has moved its translational research arm from New Jersey to New York City, bringing hundreds of quality jobs into our economy. Read a transcript of my comments [here](#).

Sustainable Technology at PS 33

On September 28, I was pleased to join members of the PS 33 (Chelsea Prep) community at the school's first annual Sustainable Technology Charrette. The event, part of the Center for Green Schools' Green Apple Day of Service, featured presentations from experts in green technologies that are integrated into the Chelsea Prep curriculum. I applaud Principal Linore Lindy, the PS 33 Green Committee and the entire school community for their commitment to creating a healthy, safe, cost-efficient and productive learning environment where resources are conserved.

Cutting the Ribbon on PS 281

On September 25, I joined New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Borough President Scott Stringer, State Senator Liz Krueger, State Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh, City Council Member Dan Garodnick and school officials at a ribbon cutting ceremony for PS 281 (The River School), a brand new K-5 elementary school at 425 East 35 Street.

This state-of-the-art school by the river is a dynamic learning environment for a new generation of elementary students. It will also go a long way towards addressing the chronic overcrowding in our East Side elementary schools. I am grateful to Community Education Council for District 2 and its president, Shino Tanikawa, as well as the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority, for helping bring this much-needed zoned school to Kips Bay.

Continued Opposition to East Midtown Rezoning

On October 1, I joined State Senator Liz Krueger, representatives of seven community boards, and planning and preservation advocates at a press conference in the wake of the New York City Planning Commission's (CPC) approval with modifications of the East Midtown Rezoning. I emphasized my continued opposition to the proposal and my disappointment that CPC's minor modifications fail to address the many flaws that the Multi-Board Task Force on East Midtown Rezoning, planning organizations, advocates and elected officials have been pointing out all along. We must not miss an historic opportunity to revitalize our central business district, build new infrastructure and mass transit, preserve historic buildings and improve the public realm.

Response to Moreland Commission on Outside Employment

You may have recently read that the Moreland Commission to Identify Public Corruption has requested members of the State Legislature provide it with details of outside employment income over \$20,000 from any single source in calendar year 2012. I promptly responded to the request, noting that I was not in office in 2012 and since I took office as a State Senator on January 1, 2013, I have been a full-time legislator with no outside income to report. Please see my letter [here](#).

Vote No on Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Legalize Casino Gambling

The New York Casino Gambling Amendment is Proposal One of six state constitutional amendments that will be on the General Election ballot on November 5, 2013. It would make casino gambling legal and permit the State Legislature to authorize up to seven casinos. Earlier this year, I voted against this constitutional amendment and spoke out against it on the Senate floor. On November 5, I urge you to vote "no," too. Click [here](#) to read more.

Register to Continue Receiving the Basic STAR Property Tax Exemption

As a result of a new initiative to protect New Yorkers against inappropriate or fraudulent STAR exemptions, all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR property tax exemption must register with the New York State Tax Department by December 31, 2013 in order to continue to receive the exemption in 2014 and future years. This is a one-time registration requirement. The Tax Department will confirm homeowners' eligibility in future years based on the information provided. Recently, the State Tax Department sent New York City homeowners letters with the information necessary to register. If you are a homeowner and did not get a letter or have questions, please go to <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star13/default.htm> or call the New York State Tax Department at (518) 457-2036.

NOTE: Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not affected by the new registration requirement. However, in order to receive Enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to apply annually or participate in the Income Verification Program.

New York State Health Insurance Exchange Launched

October 1 marked the debut of NY State of Health (NYSOH), the state's official, organized marketplace designed to help people comparison shop for and enroll in affordable health insurance coverage that can begin as early as January 1, 2014. Created by the federal *Affordable Care Act*, this new marketplace allows New Yorkers to quickly and easily find the right coverage for their needs. It allows consumers to compare costs, determine eligibility, evaluate insurance options, and purchase health insurance online, in person, and by mail. NYSOH also tell applicants what financial assistance is available to them when

buying coverage through the marketplace. Visit the NYSOH marketplace, online at <http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov> or call (855) 355-5777 from 8 a.m to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. If you're have difficulty with NYSOH, please call my office at (212) 633-8052 and we will connect you with an expert "Navigator," who can help you apply for health insurance coverage, understand your coverage options, and enroll in a plan.

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