

REPORT FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN

(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



January 2013

Dear Friend,

I took office on January 1 as the new State Senator representing New York's 27th State Senate District, which includes parts of Greenwich Village, Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, the Upper West Side, Midtown/East Midtown, the East Village and the Lower East Side. I'm proud to represent the individuals, families and businesses of these diverse and vibrant neighborhoods.

I encourage you to reach out to me with ideas, questions or concerns. In addition, I can assist constituents with a range of issues such as housing, healthcare, benefits/entitlements, etc., and can often help resolve problems with City and State agencies. My district office contact information is:

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I've had a busy first month in office and I am pleased to share with you this update on some of my recent activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate
27th District

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Taking the Oath of Office

I would like to thank everyone who attended my in-district swearing-in ceremony at Fashion Institute of Technology on January 13. It was a tremendous honor to take the oath of office, administered by United States District Judge J. Paul Oetken, before hundreds of friends, family, elected officials, labor and good government leaders, advocates and community members.

I am particularly appreciative to New York State Assembly Member Deborah Glick for her skillful performance as master of ceremonies, and to the many other elected officials who participated, including U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, New York State Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and New York State Democratic Party Leader and Assemblymember Keith Wright.

Other highlights of the event included performances by students from [LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts](#) and members of [The 52nd Street Project](#); remarks by my predecessor and mentor Tom Duane and by my campaign manager Jason Berkenfeld; and the reading of a magnificent original poem by my dear friend Maureen McLane, whose latest book, *My Poets*, was one of the *New York Times*' 100 Notable Books of 2012.

To read coverage of the event that appeared in *The Villager* and *Chelsea Now*, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Responding to the State of the State

On January 9, Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual State of the State address. Although many of the details remain to be revealed, I am impressed with the

Governor's comprehensive remarks, in which he promised to advance a host of progressive policy goals.

I was heartened by the Governor's renewed call for an assault weapons ban and other measures to fix New York's porous gun laws, especially in light of the tragedy at Sandy Hook and the spate of gun violence across New York City last summer. The Governor's Women's Equality Act, which includes support for pay equity, is a bold effort to end discrimination and inequality based on gender, and I appreciate his strong call for passage of the Reproductive Health Act to protect women's right to choose. I was also pleased to hear his plan to lessen the harm caused by the NYPD's stop-and-frisk policy by decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana and advance campaign finance reform through the public financing of elections.

The creation of a \$1 billion affordable housing fund appears promising, although we also need measures to strengthen rent regulation laws, which have been bottled up by special interests for many years. And while I'm pleased to hear of the Governor's support for increasing the minimum wage to help address the growing gap between the rich and poor in our state, working families will not see a lasting benefit if we fail to index any increase to inflation. Finally, I welcome the Governor's plans for universal pre-kindergarten, infrastructure improvement, and economic development strategies that aim to improve New York's long-term future.

I look forward to working with the Governor and my legislative colleagues to advance these initiatives.

Join Me in Telling the Boy Scouts to End Anti-Gay Discrimination

As you may have [read](#), the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) recently announced that it is considering rescinding its nationwide policy of banning gay young men from membership and gay and lesbian adults from leadership positions. However, rather than bringing discrimination within its organization to an end across the nation, BSA plans to authorize local chapters to establish their own discriminatory policies. As the only openly-gay New York State Senator and as an Eagle Scout (Troop 70, Lewisburg, WV), I [wrote](#) to BSA to urge it to act forcefully and unequivocally to remove any and all barriers to participation in the organization based on sexual orientation. Please add your voice to mine, and pledge to withhold your support of BSA until this unjust policy is brought to an end for all chapters, by signing your name to the letter [here](#) and encouraging others to do the same. The BSA has indicated it will be deciding on this policy next Wednesday, so please sign now.

Advancing Reproductive Rights

One of my first acts as State Senator was to join the [New York State Bipartisan Pro-Choice Legislative Caucus](#) (BPCLC). With 72 members from both parties and both houses of the State Legislature, the BPCLC works to protect access and remove barriers to quality reproductive health services for women, ensure access to education about

reproductive choices, and respond to any potential infringement to the legal rights to reproductive healthcare in the State of New York. Advancing legislation that furthers reproductive health is high priority for me and I am pleased to stand united with so many colleagues who share this important commitment.

Passing the NY SAFE Act

On January 14, I was proud to join my Democratic colleagues in the State Senate to provide the necessary margin of votes to pass Governor Cuomo's NY SAFE Act of 2013, which enacts the toughest assault weapons ban in the nation. This long-overdue legislation expands our State's ban on assault weapons by closing a myriad of loopholes and, among other things, requires background checks to be conducted prior to all private gun sales and ammunition purchases, establishes a statewide gun permit database, and requires individuals who own guns to renew their permits every five years.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook and the spate of gun violence across New York City last summer were stark reminders of this legislation's urgent necessity. I congratulate the Governor and my colleagues in the State Senate and Assembly for breaking the decades-long grip of the gun lobby on the legislature and am hopeful that our action will spur other states and even the federal government to strengthen their own gun laws.

That said, we have more work to do. We need to ensure that the mental health reporting provisions of this legislation do not infringe upon patient privacy. And the legislation did not have a requirement for microstamping, ballistic identification technology that would allow police to positively link used cartridge cases recovered at crime scenes to the firearms and criminals that fired them. I will continue to work with my colleagues in government to improve these and other aspects of New York's gun laws.

Demanding Improved NYCHA Emergency Planning

On January 17, I was joined by New York State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried in submitting joint testimony at a New York City Council committee hearing on the New York City Public Housing Authority's (NYCHA) emergency planning and management during and after Hurricane Sandy. In our testimony, we highlighted a number of alarming failures by NYCHA to properly plan for and respond to the hurricane, thereby leaving tens of thousands of residents without heat, water, electricity, food, means of egress, medical attention, or clear information for days on end. Certainly, the impacts of Hurricane Sandy were felt by property owners and residents throughout the region, but the disproportionate suffering of NYCHA residents is unacceptable. Please see our testimony [here](#).

Standing up for ST-PCV Tenants

As one of my first acts in office, I wrote to CW Capital, which controls Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (ST-PCV), and called on the company to retract the broad-based release clause it attached to a rent reduction it offered ST-PCV tenants for their loss of essential services resulting from Hurricane Sandy. There is widespread concern among tenants that this release clause represents a “bait and switch.” As the Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association and New York City Councilmember Dan Garodnick observed, the release includes not just claims for a rent abatement but also claims residents may have now or in the future against management for loss of property or injuries resulting from Hurricane Sandy. I urged CW Capital to clarify and correct this situation for tenants immediately.

Creating a New School at 75 Morton Street

On January 17, I joined City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, State Assembly Member Glick, Manhattan Community Board 2, the District 2 Community Education Council and many parents and community members in an information meeting about the new public school building that we, along with Congressman Nadler and Manhattan Borough President Stringer, secured at 75 Morton Street. I was encouraged to see so many parents and community members, as well as representatives of the New York City School Construction Authority and Department of Education, at this first in a series of discussions about the school or schools we wish to see created there. As the planning process moves forward, I believe we should be looking to communities across the country that have had similar opportunities to create new schools from the ground up in order to identify the best practices. I will continue to work with all District 2 stakeholders to ensure that we make the best possible use of this precious new school space.

Calling for More Review of East Midtown Rezoning

I recently joined U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York State Senator Liz Krueger and New York State Assemblymember Dan Quart in sending a letter to Mayor Bloomberg demanding more time for the community to analyze and respond to the East Midtown Rezoning Plan proposed by the Department of City Planning (DCP). We echoed many of the concerns that have been raised by the Tri-Board Task Force on East Midtown Rezoning, comprised of Manhattan Community Boards 4, 5 and 6. Important as it is that East Midtown remains a thriving business district, we must not rush ahead with significant changes to the zoning to meet artificial deadlines before conducting a comprehensive and inclusive review of the potential impacts on existing businesses, workers and residents, as well as the area’s infrastructure, public open space, iconic skyline, and many historic buildings.

Urging Prohibition of Fracking

On January 11, I submitted comments to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the agency’s draft regulations on high-

volume hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”). I identified a number of dangerous omissions in the regulations and called for a statewide prohibition on fracking. I also expressed deep concerns that DEC had released these regulations prior to the completion of the ongoing health and environmental impact reviews and strongly urged the agency to formally consider additional comments on any updated or amended regulations. Please see my comments [here](#).

Surveying Devastation at Bellevue

On January 4, I was part of a team of elected officials who met with executives from Bellevue Hospital and the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC), the organization which runs our public hospital system, to discuss their ongoing recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy. As part of this visit, I toured some of the hospital’s damaged facilities. Bellevue’s recovery is well underway, and I look forward to seeing it return to full service in the coming months. Both Bellevue and HHC should be proud of their speedy reconstruction after the devastation last fall. I also wish to applaud the Bellevue Community Advisory Board for the exceptional job it has done supporting the hospital and ensuring that the community stays informed of its status during this challenging time.

Preserving Access to 9/11 Memorial Tiles

On January 8, I joined New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Lee Ielpi of the September 11th Families’ Association, New York Public Library (NYPL) President Tony Marx, and CB2’s Shirley Secunda to unveil a new exhibit of the 9/11 Memorial Tiles at Jefferson Market Library (425 6th Avenue). The tiles on display are just some of the thousands that people from near and far spontaneously decorated and affixed to the chain-link fence at Mulry Square, across from St. Vincent’s Hospital, in the aftermath of 9/11. Since last September, when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) broke ground on a new subway ventilation facility at Mulry Square, our community has been without any tiles on public view. I am immensely grateful to the September 11th Families’ Association, Jefferson Market Library and Speaker Quinn for arranging this exhibit, which I encourage all my constituents to visit. While I am committed to ensuring that the Mulry Square tiles are returned to their original home once the MTA ventilation facility is complete, this exhibit provides continued public access in the interim to this unique and moving testament to the resilience of the Greenwich Village community and our city.

Hailing the President's Historic Mention of Stonewall

On January 21, the nation saw an historic first as President Obama made a passionate and eloquent defense of equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Americans in his second inaugural address. I am particularly proud of his mention of Stonewall, the birthplace of the modern LGBT rights movement, which is located in the 27th State Senate District, in the same breath as Seneca Falls and Selma. I am deeply moved by President Obama’s recognition of families like mine and so many others in my district. I applaud the President’s substantive accomplishments for LGBT Americans

during his first term and am heartened by his soaring declaration, at the outset of his second, that all Americans must be treated as true equals under the law.

Again, if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (212) 633-8052 or via email at hoylman@nysenate.gov and please visit my website at hoylman.nysenate.gov for updates on my activities and other information you may find of interest.