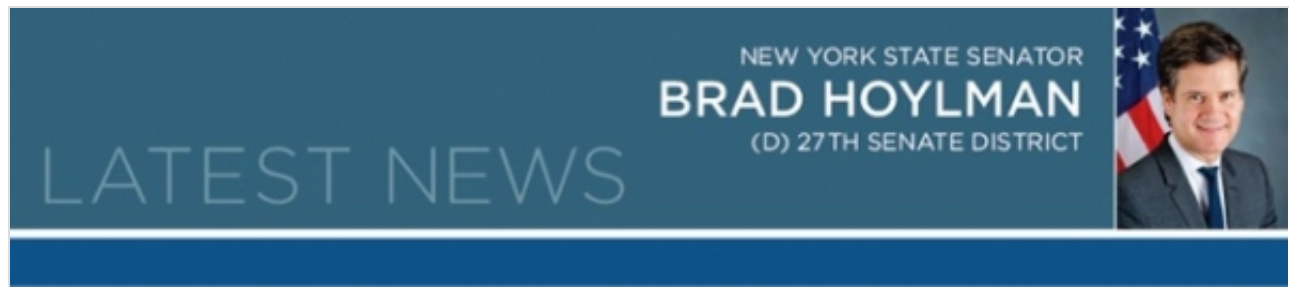


Latest News from State Senator Brad Hoylman



May 20, 2013

Dear Friend,

Please find below an update of my activities in Albany and the district over the last month. Please don't hesitate to contact me about any of these issues or other ideas or concerns you may have.

All best,

NYS Senator Brad Hoylman

27th Senate District

Speaking Out Against the Recent Wave of Anti-LGBT Violence

The [killing of a gay man in Greenwich Village](#) early in the morning of May 18 was the fifth apparent anti-LGBT hate crime in Manhattan this month. I am sickened by this recent wave of violence in our city. It is particularly upsetting that these incidents have occurred in neighborhoods in my district on the West Side of Manhattan, home to many members of the LGBT community. I applaud the NYPD for making a swift arrest in this case and call on all New Yorkers to unite against hate and gun violence. I joined a candlelight vigil for the shooting victim, Mark Carson, on Saturday night.

Also, a march is being organized in response to these



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attacks and will take place today, Monday, May 20 starting at 5:30 p.m., beginning outside the LGBT Center at 208 West 13th Street and concluding at 8th Street and Sixth Avenue, followed by a rally at 6 p.m. Please find the most up-to-date information on the march and rally [here](#).

Advancing Legislation to Make Bars' Liquor License Details Public

On May 7, my bill ([S.3077](#)), which requires the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to make available on its website information pertaining to any conditions it imposes on an on-premises liquor license, was passed by the State Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations. This is an important hurdle that puts the bill on a path to be voted on by the full Senate. The impetus for this bill came from Community Boards and constituents in my district, who have long complained that local residents, businesses and other interested parties have no way of determining the specifics of an SLA on-premises license, for example, what hours the establishment is permitted to stay open or whether anything other than background music - such as a disc jockey - is permitted. Equally troubling is that local police precincts do not have the details of SLA on-premises licenses either. This means that when the police answer a complaint about a noisy bar, there is no way for an officer to determine whether the establishment is in compliance with its on-premises license terms. My bill will solve this problem and I will keep you posted on its progress.

Requiring NYCHA Real Estate Disposition to be Subject to ULURP

On May 17, I testified at a New York City Council Committee on Public Housing hearing regarding a resolution in support of my bill, the *NYCHA Real Property Public Review Act* ([S4641/A6964](#)), which is sponsored in the New York State Assembly by Housing Committee Chair Keith Wright. Our legislation would ensure that any time the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) seeks to sell or lease its land or buildings, public housing residents and the broader communities to which they belong would have a voice through the fair and

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transparent process afforded by the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). Please find a copy of my testimony [here](#).

I am grateful to New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Committee on Public Housing Chair Rosie Mendez for holding the hearing, and to Councilmembers Margaret Chin and Melissa Mark-Viverito for introducing a resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to enact our bill in Albany. Please see the testimony I delivered on behalf of myself and Assembly Member Wright here.

You may also find of interest a May 2, 2013 *New York Daily News* article about our bill, which is being co-sponsored by State Senator Daniel Squadron and Assemblymember Brian Kavanaugh among others, [here](#).

Taking Action in Response to Meningitis Outbreak

As I've noted in previous reports, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has identified an outbreak of bacterial meningitis that poses a serious threat to men who have sex with men (MSM), in particular those who are HIV positive. The Health Department is urging all HIV positive MSM and other MSM, regardless of HIV status, who hook up through websites, Apps, or at bars or parties, to get vaccinated.

After hearing from a number of at-risk constituents who had been told by their doctors that their insurance did not cover the vaccine, I reached out to New York State Superintendent of Financial Services Benjamin Lawsky. In response to my request, Superintendent Lawsky sent letters to health insurers noting that "under governing New York law, health insurance plans must cover such immunizations" and advising them to inform health care providers and the public that meningitis vaccines are covered under insurance. I commend Superintendent Lawsky and the Cuomo Administration for their decisive action, which will clarify the situation and raise much-needed public awareness about this deadly disease and the importance and availability of the life-saving vaccination.

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I am also working closely with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and other LGBT elected officials to ensure we in government do everything in our power to contain the spread of this deadly disease. Among other things, I spearheaded a letter to Adam4Adam, one of the largest online communities for gay men, which had declined to work with DOHMH in doing outreach to its New York area members, who by definition are at high risk of contracting the disease. Adam4Adam has since reconsidered its position, and has worked to alert their members to the importance of receiving the vaccine. A press release detailing our efforts can be seen [here](#).

Once again, I encourage all MSM who meet the risk criteria to get vaccinated. Those who cannot obtain the vaccine from their regular health care providers may do so at Health Department clinics across the five boroughs. Locations are listed at the Health Department's Site Locator on its website [here](#).

Seeking Long-Term Health Care for MMA Combatants

I have been a vocal opponent of legalizing professional human cage fighting, or Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), in New York State. On April 23rd, I joined State Senator Liz Krueger, the National Organization for Women – New York, and advocates for sexual and domestic assault survivors in a press conference to call on the State Assembly to uphold the state's ban on MMA. MMA fighters aim to cause devastating injury to their opponents, unleashing blows to the head which have been shown in numerous medical studies to result in acute brain damage. This physical brutality is all too often mirrored in sexually explicit and misogynistic language used by fighters in and out of the ring. While many supporters of legalizing MMA in New York swoon over its projected economic benefits, it comes with a tremendous cost to our social fabric, and leaves fighters susceptible to conditions such as dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Regrettably, it seems increasingly likely that MMA may

soon be legalized in our state. A bill to do just that passed the State Senate by a wide margin in March and currently has 60 co-sponsors in the 150-member State Assembly. On May 12, the *New York Daily News* ran an op-ed I wrote with former MMA fighter Nick Denis suggesting that if MMA is to become legal, at the very least we should require the businesses that profit from the sport to take financial responsibility for treating the long-term health consequences suffered by fighters. To do that, I have introduced legislation mandating that MMA promoters contribute to a state-coordinated fund — similar to funds already created for horse jockeys and New York City cab drivers — to cover long-term job-related injuries sustained by fighters. You may read the op-ed [here](#).

Hosting a Forum on Identity Theft & Consumer Fraud

As the Ranking Democratic member of the New York State Senate Committee on Consumer Protection, I've heard many stories from constituents who have fallen prey to identity theft and consumer fraud. On May 28, from 6:30-8:30pm at Roosevelt Hospital, I am hosting a forum featuring experts on the topic who will address how to protect yourself and what to do if you're a victim. For more information, please click [here](#).

Citing New Evidence of Economic Impact of Discrimination against Transgender New Yorkers

Advocates for the *Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act*, or *GENDA*, got strong new evidence for passage of the bill this month when a UCLA Law School think tank released a new study showing that employment and housing discrimination against transgender individuals costs New York millions of dollars annually. *GENDA* ([A.4226/S.195](#)), which is sponsored by State Assemblymember Dick Gottfried and State Senator Daniel Squadron, and which I am proud to co-sponsor, would prohibit this kind of discrimination against transgender New Yorkers.

The Williams Institute study, entitled "[The Cost of Employment and Housing Discrimination against](#)

[Transgender Residents of New York](#),” says that workplace discrimination against transgender individuals costs New York more than \$1 million annually in state Medicaid expenditures and up to \$5.9 million annually in federal and state housing program expenditures. Passage of a statewide anti-discrimination statute such as *GENDA* to cover the estimated 23,800 transgender people not protected by local anti-discrimination ordinances would have a positive impact on the New York State budget, according to the report.

This is evidence that not only is discrimination wrong, it’s expensive. It’s time that the Senate leadership moves *GENDA* to the floor for consideration by my colleagues, who I think will be further convinced of the wisdom of passing *GENDA* by the economic impact enumerated in the Williams Institute report. To read news coverage of the report and my observations on its import, please click [here](#).

Honoring NYS Senate Woman of Distinction Susan Steinberg

Each year, the New York State Senate honors a select group of women from across New York who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of others, enriching their communities and strengthening our state as “Women of Distinction.” This year, I had the privilege of naming Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association Chair Susan Steinberg, who in addition to being a tenant leader, is a CB6 member, neighborhood activist and advocate for social and environmental justice. On May 7, she traveled to Albany to take part in an official celebration at which she and other extraordinary women from across our State were recognized for their invaluable contributions to their communities. Please read the essay I submitted about Susan for the program distributed at the event [here](#).

Continuing the Fight to Save Old Chelsea Station

On Thursday, April 11th, I was proud to stand with local residents, other elected officials, and Chuck Zlatkin of the New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union at the United States Postal Service’s (USPS) public forum on its

proposed closure and sale of Old Chelsea Station. At the meeting, which was sponsored by Community Board 4, I reiterated to Joseph Mulvey, USPS's Real Estate Specialist, what I and my colleagues in government have been saying since we first learned of the proposed sale: that selling the facility and leasing new space elsewhere in the neighborhood simply does not make sense. Given Chelsea's booming commercial real estate market, leasing the excess space at the post office could generate significant long-term income for USPS and help relieve the agency's financial pressures. Moreover, Old Chelsea Station serves a growing residential and commercial community that includes many elderly and disabled residents and small business owners who rely upon traditional postal services.

The public comment period for the proposed relocation ended on April 26th, allowing community members just 15 days following the April 11th presentation to submit comment on USPS's plan. Despite this outrageous attempt to stifle public input, I was pleased to have heard from a number of my constituents that they submitted comments to USPS, conveying their disapproval of the sale.

According to the law governing USPS's proposed relocation, in the coming weeks we can anticipate a decision from USPS, which is meant to take into account community input. Notification of the decision will be sent to elected officials and posted in Old Chelsea Station, and I assure you that and my colleagues in government and I are poised to ensure that CB4 and the public get prompt notice of the determination.

If USPS decides to ignore the immense public objection and to proceed with its plans, it must allow 30 days, at minimum, for interested community members to appeal the decision. Should that be the case, I will continue to fight alongside my colleagues, CB4, and all concerned stakeholders to save our postal facility, the services it provides, and the historic building that houses it.

Supporting a Proposal to Expand the Clinton

School

The Clinton School for Writers and Artists (the Clinton School), which is temporarily located at 425 West 33 Street, will be moving into 10 East 15 Street—a building currently being prepared to house a middle and high school—for the 2014-15 school year. On April 16, I sent a letter to Alex Shub, Executive Director of New School Development at the New York City Department of Education, supporting a Letter of Intent submitted by the Clinton School Principal to expand what is currently a middle school to a middle and high school in its new home. The proposal, which is backed by the school's Parent Association, would ensure that the new building houses one unified school with a coherent curriculum, under the direction of one principal. Please see my letter [here](#).

Urging USPS to Keep Peter Stuyvesant Post Office in Our Neighborhood

On April 22, I joined Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Borough President Scott Stringer, State Senator Daniel Squadron, and City Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Rosie Mendez in sending a letter to the United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General, Patrick Donahoe, regarding the Peter Stuyvesant Post Office. USPS has proposed relocating the post office to another location nearby. In our letter, we urged USPS to keep the existing facility open until a new facility is ready for business. If, indeed, the post office must be moved, it is vital that the new facility be located in the immediate vicinity of the one that is closing and not only maintain but also improve upon its level of service. I will continue to work with my colleagues, CB3, CB6, and other stakeholders to preserve the postal services we rely upon in our community.

Advocating for More Benches Along the M14 Bus Route

After receiving a number of complaints from constituents, I sent a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting the installation of benches in bus shelters along the crosstown M14 route. I appreciate DOT's citywide efforts to improve the safety

and convenience of our streets for all users and I understand that the agency has limited resources. I also understand that minimum setback requirements preclude the installation of benches at certain stops. However, bus bunching, overcrowding and service delays often result in long wait times between buses, in some cases forcing riders to wait up to 45 minutes before a bus arrives. I urged DOT to ensure that riders in general, and particularly senior citizens and people with mobility-impairments, have a bench to rest on while they wait.

Demanding Retraction of Stuy Town-Peter Cooper Village Mid-Lease Rent Increases

On May 15, I joined City Councilmember Dan Garodnick, State Assemblymember Brian Kavanaugh, City Councilmember Jessica Lappin and the Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (ST/PCV) Tenants Association in denouncing the complex owners' sudden decision to raise rents mid-lease on ST/PCV residents who were part of the *Roberts v. Tishman Speyer* class action. The rent increases, which are slated to go into effect on June 1 and reportedly range from \$100 more than \$1,000 a month, are permitted by fine print in the *Roberts* settlement. Earlier this year, I joined many of my colleagues in government in writing to CWC Capital Asset Management to urge the company not to take advantage of any such provision. While CW Capital declined to respond, leasing agents for the property assured residents that the landlord would not choose to do so. I'm personally outraged that CWC Capital would raise the rents mid-lease on hundreds of ST/PCV tenants, whose apartments the courts have already found to have been improperly deregulated. This is not the action of a responsible landlord interested in the long-term stability of a community so vital to our city. I join my colleagues and the Tenants Association in demanding that CWC Capital cease this attempt to raise these tenants' rents mid-lease.

Encouraging Expansion of the South Village Historic District

Last month, I joined City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Congressman Jerold Nadler, Borough President

Scott Stringer, State Assemblymember Deborah Glick and City Councilmember Margaret Chin in writing to the New York City Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) regarding the proposed South Village Historic District. We urged that the boundaries of the unprotected section of the district north of Houston Street be expanded to include three additional buildings in advance of a public hearing that LPC recently committed to hold. These properties include the blockfront of the north side of Houston Street, between MacDougal and Sullivan Streets; 40 Washington Square South; and 50 Washington Square South. I am pleased that on May 3, LPC agreed to include all three locations in the proposed boundaries of the district, which the commission is expected to calendar for a public hearing this June.

Issuing an Earth Day Call for Action Against Fracking

The 43rd annual Earth Day, on April 22, came as New York State is considering whether to permit hydrofracking. The occasion led me to renew my call to ban this dangerous type of natural gas drilling throughout New York State and instead launch new clean-energy initiatives and other means to meet the challenges of climate change. Please see my Earth Day statement [here](#).

Condemning Recent Comments on Torture

On April 23, I issued a statement condemning deplorable comments made in prior days by the Chair of the State Senate Homeland Security Committee that the suspect in the Boston Marathon Bombing should be tortured and urging passage of my legislation to prohibit participation in torture by health care professionals. I firmly believe that torture is inherently wrong and can never be justified to extract information or a confession from suspects. We can do something about it here in New York by holding state-licensed health care professionals who participate in torture – at overseas prisons and elsewhere – accountable for their actions. Please see my statement [here](#).

Fighting for LGBT Equality and Justice in Albany

On April 30, Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights and advocacy organization, held its Equality and Justice Day in Albany. This annual event, which features a rally at the Capitol, workshops, caucuses and visits with elected representatives, is an opportunity for the LGBT community to show its strength and depth of support. I had the honor and privilege of addressing many of the participants to welcome them to the Capitol and thank them for their advocacy. Please find a copy of my remarks on my website [here](#).

I also recently introduced legislation with State Assemblymember Deborah Glick ([A6983/S4917](#)) that would bar mental health providers from engaging patients under 18 in sexual orientation change efforts, which are sometimes known as reparative or conversion therapy. This detrimental practice, based on the premise that people can change their sexual orientation, literally 'converting' from gay to straight, has long been discredited by the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual or a questioning youth is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and we cannot allow this harmful practice to continue to be forced on our children. Please see a recent *New York Daily News* story on my legislation, on which I am working closely with State Senator Mike Gianaris, [here](#).

Addressing Challenges Faced by New Yorkers

Living with HIV/AIDS

On April 25, I was pleased to co-sponsor and speak at a seminar hosted by VNSNY CHOICE SelectHealth and St. Luke's-Roosevelt's Center for Comprehensive Care on improving care for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV). As the representative of a district with one of the state's highest concentrations of PLHIV, I especially appreciated the focus on obstacles individuals face in getting the care they need, and solutions that are applicable in their neighborhoods and communities. Particular attention was paid to the challenges of AIDS

and aging, medication adherence and the stigma that continues to surround HIV/AIDS more than 30 years after the start of the epidemic. I am committed to working with health care providers, community based organizations, and advocates to ensure that PLHIV have access to the care and support services they need, that research is accelerated to identify a cure for AIDS in our lifetime, and that we achieve the goal of zero new HIV infections.

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