News from State Senator

Liz Krueger



Community Bulletin

New York State Senate | 28th District

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Message from Liz...

I am currently in the midst of three weeks of budget hearings in Albany. These hearings offer legislators the opportunity to hear from executive agencies regarding the Governor's executive budget proposal, as well as for representatives of organizations to testify on their budget priorities. As Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. I view this as one of my most important responsibilities - gathering information that will help me and other legislators make the difficult decisions about how to address a significant budget shortfall while ensuring New York State is able to deliver adequate funding for healthcare, education, public protection, social services and so many other critical needs.

In November 2019, the Governor estimated 2020-21, budget shortfall at

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\$6.9 billion, but higher than expected tax receipts have reduced that number to approximated \$4.9 billion. The Governor proposes closing that gap by convening a new Medicaid Redesign Team to identify \$2.5 billion in savings, changes to local assistance programs saving \$1.8 billion, identifying \$400 million in state agency savings, and another \$250 million in miscellaneous savings.

The black box in this process is the Medicaid Design Team (MRT), which is charged with finding savings by April 1st without impacting benefits or local governments, but if they fail to identify \$2.5 billion in savings, the result will be across the board cuts, which would be on top of the one percent across the board cut in the program last year. The makeup of the MRT and its process for making recommendations is unclear, and I and many of my colleagues have pressed the Department of Health and the Governor for more information on how this process would work and how realistic it is to expect the MRT to identify such significant savings on this timeframe.

The Governor is also projecting \$150 million in savings from "Medicaid local district spending reform" and implementing a system that will penalize localities whose Medicaid costs rise too fast. But blaming localities for rising Medicaid costs ignores the fact that the two main drivers of these increased costs are that more Medicaid-eligible people have signed up for the program with the

rollout of the statewide healthcare marketplace (which is a good thing), and that the population is aging, and healthcare expenses for older people are higher. Neither of these cost drivers are controlled by the locality, and, in fact, the state determines Medicaid eligibility. Governor Cuomo rightly points with pride to the drop in the number of uninsured in New York State, but he needs to recognize that it is the State that controls enrollment criteria and that playing a blame game with localities might seem like good politics, but it is bad policy.

Medicaid funding is the elephant in the room, but there are plenty of other proposals to evaluate that were included in the Governor's budget, including:

- levels of funding for K-12 and college education;
- housing options for those at risk of homelessness;
- proposed cuts to family assistance funding for New York City;
- expanded gun safety proposals;
- legalization of cannabis;
- funding commitments to the 2020-2024 MTA capital plan;
- legalization of e-scooters and e-bikes;
- a proposed \$3 billion environmental bond act;
- a statewide ban on polystyrene;
- state workforce reductions;
- new prevailing wage requirements;

to name just a few. The hearings I and my colleagues are now engaged in started that evaluation process. In addition, I am also joining my Senate colleagues from Manhattan in hosting a hearing on the budget in February 29th in Manhattan, to provide an opportunity for people who can't trek to Albany to have their voices heard. Details on that hearing and how to sign up to testify are included below in the Community Spotlight.

In early March, the Senate and Assembly will both make their recommendations for changes to the Governor's budget, followed by negotiations to reach agreement by the April 1st deadline. We face difficult decisions this year, but I look forward to working through these complex issues in the weeks ahead.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Early Voting Implementation

Last month the Senate passed my bill to ban using schools as early voting sites. Early voting has broadened access to the ballot box for many New Yorkers who were struggling to get off of work, find childcare, or overcome other hurdles to voting on a single day. But like any new statewide program, there have been some growing pains. By exempting schools from use as early voting locations, though still allowing them to be used on Election Day itself, we will avoid disrupting the work of our students while still guaranteeing access for people who want or need to vote early.

Last year, New York state lawmakers approved a series of reforms intended to make New York's voting process easier, more efficient, more transparent, and more accountable to its citizens. Among

these reforms were the scheduling of state and federal primaries on the same day, automatic updating of voters' registrations when they

move, preregistration of those ages 16 and 17 prior to an election in which they will be eligible to vote, and requirements that established 10 days of early voting which includes two full weekends prior to elections.

Early voting provides flexibility and a longer voting process that encourages civic involvement by New York's citizens. However, the use of school sites for early voting has proven problematic. Since early voting takes place over multiple days, vital areas of a public school such as cafeterias and gymnasiums could become unavailable to students for significant periods of time, which can occur multiple times a year due to primary, general, and special elections.

A vast majority of early voting sites were not at public schools but rather colleges, community centers, and museums. Only one locality outside of the City of New York used public schools as polling places, and none of the polling places in the borough of Queens were public schools.

I am hopeful that the Assembly will act on this legislation soon to make clear that schools are not a realistic location for early voting.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Forum on Scams February 7th:

On Friday, February 7th I and my colleague Senator Jose Serrano are hosting a Forum on Scams. The forum will offer information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from predatory phone calls, emails and letters. Officers from the 19th Precinct will provide information on specific scams, do's and don't's, and who to contact to report scams. The forum will take place from 2PM to 4PM at Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street, between 1st Avenue and the FDR. To RSVP, visit https://tinyurl.com/ScamForum2020 or call 212-490-9435.

Budget Forum with Manhattan Senate Delegation February 29th:

On Saturday February 29th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. I will join my Senate colleagues from Manhattan at a forum on the State Budget. The Budget Forum is an opportunity to join other community members, advocates, and other interested parties to make your voice heard regarding priorities for the 2020-21 NYS Budget. The forum will take place at the New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue (entrance at 103rd Street) 2nd Floor, Room 20.

We welcome anyone's opinion as written or oral testimony. Each speaker will have up to three minutes to speak. If you would like to attend the event and/or testify you can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/BudgetForum2020 or by calling (212) 490-9535. If you would like to submit testimony in writing, you can email it to ManhattanBudgetForum@gmail.com.

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Thursday March 5th:

The Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors provides an opportunity for constituents to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session, attendees hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of most concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City. Over the course of five sessions, the Roundtable looks at

a specific issue from different perspectives each month. This year's series will focus on Living Well as We Age in the Community. The third roundtable session will take place Thursday, March 5th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, and the topic will be "Technology Can Work for Older Adults." Speakers include Crispin Baynes, Co-Chair, Aging 2.0; Dr. Sara Czaja, Geriatric & Palliative Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, Tom Kamber, Executive Driector, OATS/Senior Planet; and Lorraine Novack Boytek, Director, Connect Through Tech Programs, DOROT. To RSVP visit https://tinyurl.com/SeniorRoundtable3-5-20 or call (212) 490-9535.

Older Adult Job Search Strategies and Employment Fair April 14th &15th:

Senator Krueger's 2020 Older Adult Job Search Strategies and Employment Fair will be held on April 14th and April 15th at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues.

Tuesday, April 14th 9:45am - 1pm

Co-sponsored by the NYPL Business Library (SIBL)

Job Search Strategies and Support

Job search guidance for the mature worker, including how to make persuasive pitch during an interview. Limited employment coaching slots available for advanced job seekers. To reserve a coaching slot, you must have a resume, and at least one job posting. Slots are limited; reserve in advance.

Wednesday, April 15th 10:00 am - 1 pm.

Employment Fair

20+ employers and agencies seeking to hire and assist older adults in their job search.

Due to limited space, the fair is only open to Sen. Krueger's constituents

RSVP to liz@lizkrueger.com or call 212-490-9535. Please include your address when responding.

Survey on Finding a Doctor for Medicare and Medicare Advantage Patients:

If you have Medicare health insurance - either original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan - I am interested in hearing what your experience has been finding medical providers that accept your insurance. Please take a few minutes to fill out a short survey and let us know what you have experienced when looking for primary care providers and specialists that accept your Medicare plan. Click on the following link: https://tinyurl.com/medicare-access-survey.

Plastic Bag Ban Goes Into Effect March 1st - Get Your Reusable Bags!

Starting March 1st, a new bag waste reduction law will take effect in New York State - where over 23 billion plastic bags are typically used each year. Plastic bag usage affects both our communities and our shared environment. Plastic bags can be seen stuck in trees, as litter in our neighborhoods, and floating in our waterways. From the significant recycling and disposal issues they pose to the harm they can do to wildlife and our food supply, the negative impacts of plastic bags are easily seen.

As a consumer, you can help and BYOBag - Bring Your Own Bag. Keep reusable bags in your car, or clip folding reusable bags onto your commuting bag or purse so you always have them handy. If you store them near the door or coat closet, you'll be more likely to remember them on the way out. Remember that every time you use a reusable bag, you are doing your part to prevent litter and waste. Using reusable bags makes sense and is the right thing to do. You can also remind your family, friends, and neighbors to bring their reusable bags whenever they shop.

The Bag Waste Reduction Law applies to more than just grocery stores. Whether you're going to the grocery store, clothes shopping, or to a home improvement store, make sure to bring your reusable bags. If you need reusable bags, my office is distributing free bags made of 90% recycled material that fold into a built-in pouch with a carabiner clip. Call 212-490-9535 or email liz@lizkrueger.com to request bags. Please indicate how many bags you would like.

Learn About the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) February 26th:

Councilmember Keith Powers and the Municipal Arts Society are sponsoring an informational presentation on the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). The details are:

Date: Wednesday, February 26th, 2020

Time: Doors open at 6pm, program starts at 6:30pm Location: Wagner Middle School (220 E. 76th St.).

Town Hall with Chancellor Richard A. Carranza March 10:

On Tuesday March 10th Community Education Council District 2 is hosting a Town Hall with Chancellor Richard A. Carranza. The Town Hall will take place at MS 131, 100 Hester Street, in the Auditorium, and will begin at 6:30pm. The Chancellor will be taking questions. You can submit a question by emailing CEC2@schools.nyc.gov and putting 'Question for the Chancellor' in the subject line. Comment cards will also be distributed at the Town Hall.

Apply to be a Community Board Member- Deadline Extended to February 14th:

The Manhattan Borough President's office is now accepting applications for Community Board membership. New Yorkers living, working, or studying in one of Manhattan's 12 Community Board districts are encouraged to apply. Community Boards are the most grass roots form of local government, each composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and they work to enhance and preserve the character of their neighborhoods.

You may apply online at https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/cbapplication/. Applications are due by February 14th, 2020.

Borough President Gale Brewer's Age-Friendly Manhattan Survey:

Last fall, the BP's office launched "Making Manhattan Mine" an initiative to make the borough a better place to age. As part of that effort, they have partnered with The New York Academy of Medicine to construct a survey about the nature and quality of resources and amenities available to older people—things like transportation, technology, healthy living, advance-care planning, and the arts. They need your input on how to shape the initiative's roadmap ahead.

Please participate in the short survey online at bit.ly/AgeFriendlyMBPO or, to request a printed copy of the survey, send your address to Shula Warren at swarren@manhattanbp.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-2392. The survey is available online and in print in English, Spanish and Chinese, and responses are anonymous and confidential.

New Law Allows Adoptees to Access Their Birth Records:

Under a new state law passed in 2019, adoptees and relatives can now request a copy of a preadoption long-form birth certificate. You can request the certificate if:

- You are the adopted person and are 18 years of age or older.

- You are the adopted person's direct line descendant, if the adopted person is deceased. A direct line descendant is the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of the adopted person.
- You are a lawful representative for the adopted person. A lawful representative may include the attorney of the adopted person or direct line descendant.
- You are a lawful representative for a direct line descendant, if the adopted person is deceased.

Forms for individuals born in New York City can be requested here:

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/birth-certificates.page

For individuals born elsewhere in New York state visit:

https://www.ny.gov/services/get-copy-birth-certificate.

Excelsior Conservation Corps Employment Opportunities:

Excelsior Conservation Corps (ECC) is a ten month residential AmeriCorps program, run by the Student Conservation Association, a multi-agency partnership, and is designed to address the environmental and conservation needs of our state while providing leadership opportunities, employment training and college scholarships.

The program, which begins in late February, will include up to 40 full-time service positions available for young adults age 18-25 and Veterans up to age 28.

The members work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to complete environmental stewardship projects on state lands. The AmeriCorps members serve in teams of 10 on projects that improve the infrastructure of buildings and improve sustainability (including solar array installation); invasive species removal, trail construction, and erosion control; surveying for invasive species or habitat types & assessing culverts; and outreach at fairs & festivals as well as running interpretive & educational programming. Members of the program will be provided with:

- \$180/week living allowance
- Housing and meals
- No cost health insurance
- \$6,190 AmeriCorps Education Award upon completion

Interested individuals should apply at www.ny.gov/ECC. The deadline for application is Friday, February 14, 2020.

Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights and Assistance:

Student loan servicers are often the most important points of contact for student loan borrowers. They send your monthly bills and process your loan payments, and they are also supposed to answer your questions and help you figure out the best way to repay your loans. For these reasons, when student loan servicers don't do their jobs well, borrowers suffer. In 2019, New York passed the Student Loan Servicing Act, which gave the State Department of Financial Services authority to license and regulate student loan servicers and to ensure that they treat borrowers with the respect and professionalism they deserve. The law also created new protections for borrowers and their cosignors. These rights are described in the New York Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights as follows:

Every Student Loan Borrower In New York Has The Right To:

- 1. Detailed financial aid award letters from schools in New York.
- 2. Clear, accurate, and complete information about your loan terms.

- 3. Information about any available loan repayment plans and options.
- 4. Information about any available discharge, forgiveness, and cancellation options.
- 5. Loan payments applied to your account in ways that most benefit you.
- 6. Knowledgeable customer service representatives who treat you respectfully and fairly.
- 7. Detailed loan account histories that are easily and securely accessible online.
- 8. Seamless transfers if your loan is serviced by a new company.
- 9. Accurate payment history reporting to credit agencies.
- 10. Responses to complaints you make to your servicer.

The Community Service Society also offers an Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program that can offer assistance with student loan debt issues. If you would like their assistance, visit their website at www.edcapny.org or call their helpline at 888-614-5004.

Open Enrollment for Health Care Marketplace Deadline Extended to February 7th:

The Open Enrollment Period for the Health Care Marketplace in New York will run until February 7th. As was the case for the past two years, the Trump administration decided to significantly shorten the Open Enrollment Period, however New York has its own marketplace, and therefore is able to determine the length of its Open Enrollment Period. If you want to enroll for health insurance through the individual marketplace for coverage in 2020, the upcoming Open Enrollment Period will run from November 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020. It is also important for you to know that eligible policy holders will still receive cost-sharing subsidies to help make the cost of health insurance more affordable. Please note that if you already have a health insurance policy through the individual marketplace and want to make a change, you can do so on or after November 16th.

2020 health insurance plan details are now available. If you would like to consult with a trained representative at no charge prior to selecting your health insurance plan, Navigator Sites are an excellent resource. The following is the contact information for a local Navigator Site:

Community Service Society of New York 633 Third Avenue, 10th Floor New York, NY 10017 Phone: 888-614-5400

Please make sure to call and schedule an appointment for November 1st through January 31st to ensure health care coverage in 2020. You will need to sign up for a health insurance policy by December 15th in order for it to take effect January 1, 2020.

Before selecting your plan, it is important to check the following:

- Will your primary physician, OB/GYN, and any specialists accept the insurance? This is important to verify, even if you are not changing plans. Health insurance companies are using narrower provider networks than before, which may cause reductions to their list of in-network providers. Please note that a new search tool has been added to the New York State of Health marketplace website: https://pndslookup.health.ny.gov/. This tool allows you to search by medical provider to see what health insurance plans s/he accepts. It also allows you to search by health plan to see which medical providers are in-network.
- Will any regularly prescribed medications be covered under the plan? Each health insurance plan has a list of pharmaceuticals that are covered. If you are concerned about prescriptions being covered, this is important to verify before you enroll in the plan. Navigator Site representatives can provide assistance with this.

- Which plan will be the most affordable while providing the amount of coverage you need? Research has shown that many people do not take the time to comparison shop before selecting a health insurance policy. It is worth taking the time to consider your health care needs and assess which plan will give you the greatest savings based on premiums charged, co-pays, and deductibles. Navigator Site representatives can also provide assistance with doing a comparison of plan costs.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance:

IRS-trained volunteers are available to provide free tax preparation assistance throughout New York City. I encourage you to take advantage of these services, which can save you money and ensure you avoid getting caught in "Refund Anticipation Loan" scams that many for-profit tax preparers engage in.

AARP is sponsoring a number of locations on the East Side, and there are no age or income restrictions to receive this assistance. Here are some sites in the 28th Senate District where you can get free assistance with your taxes:

58th Street Library, 127 East 58th Street

Telephone: 212-759-7358

Site Hours: Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

67th Street Library, 328 East 67th Street

Telephone: 212-734-1717

Site Hours: Friday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Community Church of New York, 40 East 35th Street

Telephone: 212-683-4988

Site Hours: Thursday, 9:30am-1:30pm

Epiphany Library, 228 East 23rd Street

Telephone: 212-679-2645

Site Hours: Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street

Telephone: 212-218-0481

Site Hours: Wednesday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL), 188 Madison Ave @ 34th Street

Telephone: (917) 275-6975

Site Hours: Thursday 10:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.

Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Telephone: 212-360-7620

Site Hours: Friday, 9:30am-2:00pm

New York City also offers free tax preparation either in person or online for individuals making \$66,000 or less.

You can file in-person an NYC Free Tax Prep site. Filing is completely free and includes e-filing and direct deposit of your refund. Some sites have income limits. For most sites, you must have earned

\$54,000 or less in 2016 to use In Person service. Some NYC Free Tax Prep sites have special services if you are self-employed, are applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, you are a senior over age 60 with pension or retirement-related question or you need to file or change your return from a previous tax year. At these sites, you will drop off your documents and pick up the completed return later.

You can also complete your tax return online at certain NYC Free Tax Prep sites with help from an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. You must have earned \$66,000 or less in 2016 and have a valid email address to use the Assisted Self-Preparation service.

You can access a map of tax preparation sites at each site and find out which required tax documents you need at nyc.gov/taxprep.

<u>Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:</u>

The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Legal Advocacy Center offers assistance on a number of different issues. Here is a list of their ongoing programs and clinics:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Clinics:
- Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. Arrive by Noon.

First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information, utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents, proof of immigration status for non-citizens, and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call 212-218-0503, option 2.

- Tenants Rights Advice Clinic: Walk-in clinic, now at 3 locations.
- February 20 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first Served, arrive by Noon.
- February 12 at East Harlem Action Center, 158 East 115th Street, from 2pm to 5 pm. First comefirst Served, arrive by 4 pm.
- March 25 at Lenox Hill Neighorbood House Casa Mutua, 159 East 102nd Street, from 2pm to 5 pm. First come-first Served, arrive by 4 pm.
- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinics will take place March 17 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before 11:30 to ensure you can be seen. If you are 62 years or older, live in a rent regulated apartment and have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less you may be eligible for the Rent Freeze Program. Find out if you are eligible and get assistance applying or recertifying for SCRIE.
- DRIE Assistance: If you are 18 years of age or older, live in a rent-regulated apartment, receive disability-related benefits and have income below \$50,000/year, you may be eligible for DRIE. For an appointment or information, contact us at DRIE@lenoxhill.org or 212-218-0503, option 0.
- Health Care Access Project: call <u>212-218-0503</u>. Assistance with Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program Medicare Part D, Epic and health insurance through the New York State of Health Marketplace.
- Advance Directives: If you need assistance from a volunteer attorney with setting up advance directives, including health care proxies, living wills, powers of attorney and simple, low asset wills, contact the Advance Directives Project's intake hotline at 212-218-0503, option 4, for an eligibility screening.

VOLS Legal Clinics for Seniors:

The VOLS Elderly Project staff and pro bono attorneys provide free legal advice, information, document drafting, and other brief services to low-income Manhattan residents aged 60 and over, and to the social workers and advocates who assist them. Their schedule includes:

Friday February 14th - 2:00 pm, Legal Clinic, Burden Center for the Aging, 415 East 73rd Street (b/t 1st and York)

Friday February 21st - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Monday February 24th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Encore Community Services Center, 239 West 49th Street (b/t Broadway and 8th Ave.)

Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule:

The MTA offers MetroCard-related services throughout New York City through mobile buses and vans. Buses provide a full range of services, including applying for or refilling a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buying or refilling a regular MetroCard, or getting answers to a MetroCard-related question. Vans sell Unlimited Ride MetroCards and Pay-Per-Ride MetroCards, and they refill MetroCards and Reduced-Fare MetroCards. Buses and vans will be in my district on the following dates and locations:

February 11, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

February 11, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

February 11, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

February 19, 9 – 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

February 19, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus

February 19, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue - Bus

February 20, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van

February 20, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

February 25, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

February 25, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

February 25, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

March 4, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

March 4, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus

March 4, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus

March 5, 7 – 9 am, 90 Street and York Avenue - Van

March 5, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

March 5, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van

March 6, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van

March 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue - Van

March 6, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue - Van

The full mobile MetroCard schedule is available at http://mta.info/metrocard/mms.htm. Please note that MetroCard buses and vans do not take credit cards.

Heat Season Rules:

The City Housing Maintenance Code and State Multiple Dwelling Law require building owners to provide heat and hot water to all tenants. Building owners are required to provide hot water 365 days a year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as "Heat Season," building owners are also required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions:

- Between the hours of 6AM and 10PM if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Between the hours of 10PM and 6AM the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Note that there is no longer any outside temperature requirement for night hours

Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City's Citizen Service Center at 311. For the hearing-impaired, the TTY number is (212) 504-4115. The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.