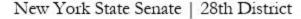
News from State Senator

Liz Krueger





Community Bulletin

March 2019

Message from Liz...

Last Saturday, I joined all of my Senate colleagues from Manhattan at a budget hearing where we heard testimony from our constituents and advocates on a host of issues. In January and February I spent much of my time in Albany in budget hearings, but I greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from local folks who may not have had the time or opportunity to travel to a distant hearing. I learned a great deal from the eloquent comments of those who participated in the hearing. You can view a video of the event here and read written testimony if you are interested:

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https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/events/liz-krueger/march-02-2019/manhattan-state-budget-forum

Hearing from the public is a huge part of the Legislature's job in evaluating the Governor's proposed budget and then negotiating a final product. I have participated in this process for years but now am in a very different role as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. That role involves developing my own priorities for addressing the state's revenue needs and program funding based on the input from the public. It also involves serving as a clearinghouse for the priorities of my Senate colleagues to make sure that we have input from around the state.

The budget is the most significant package of legislation we pass each year. It not only allocates around \$170 billion in funding for vital programs including education, healthcare, social services, and environmental protection but also involves major policy decisions. This year the Governor's budget includes a wide range of major policy initiatives that the Legislature must consider, ranging from public financing of elections to congestion pricing to legalization of adult-use cannabis.

The budget process began in earnest in January with the release of Governor Cuomo's executive budget, followed by the hearing process described above. The next step is coming to an agreement on revenue projections, as that sets the parameters for how much the state will have to spend next year.

This year the legislature and Governor were unable to reach a consensus on revenues, which throws the decision to the State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli. On Tuesday, Comptroller DiNapoli issued his estimate, which came in at 190 million above the Governor's original estimate for the next two years. This is certainly good news but there will undoubtedly be much debate over how best to use this revenue as we try to reach agreement on a balanced budget that does not undermine critical programs that serve New Yorkers' needs.

In the next week or so, the Senate and Assembly will issue their "one-house" budget proposals, which are the product of all the discussions now going on among my colleagues and me (and our counterparts in the Assembly). These resolutions will establish the priorities of our individual conferences as we go into the final negotiations with the Governor. The one-houses are about specific dollar amounts, but are also about weighing in on whether the Legislature supports the broad range of policy proposals included in the budget.

After the release of the one-houses, the Senate and Assembly will hold joint conference committees, which allocate funds for the priorities of each conference. Then the final negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor begin. There is a great deal of work to be done this month, but I am hopeful that despite the serious fiscal challenges we face, we will be able to reach an agreement on a responsible budget by April 1.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Revenge Porn

Last month the New York State Senate and Assembly both passed legislation (S1719-C/A5981) establishing the crime of unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image and creating a private right of action for such crime. The legislation makes New York the 42nd state to criminalize the dissemination of an intimate image with the intent to cause harm to another individual.

The "Revenge Porn" bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Monica Martinez. It establishes the criminal act of unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image when done with the intent to cause harm to the emotional, financial, or physical welfare of another person when the image was taken with a reasonable expectation that the image would remain private. The unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image is a Class A misdemeanor. The bill also amends the Civil Rights Law to allow victims of "revenge porn" to seek civil recourse for the damages, and victims will have a choice whether to pursue a criminal or civil case, or both. Images shared during lawful and common practices of law enforcement, legal proceedings, or medical treatment, and those involving voluntary exposure in a commercial setting are exempt.

So-called 'revenge porn' is just sexual assault by another name. It creates deep emotional distress, damages careers, and ruins lives. For the perpetrator, it is about dominating, terrorizing, and making their victim feel powerless. By passing S1719, we are giving power back to those who have been victimized, and telling perpetrators that they will face justice. I commend Senator Martinez and my colleagues for prioritizing this issue and making clear that the new State Senate stands with victims and survivors.

Gun Safety

On March 4, the Senate passed legislation (S.2450-A & S.35) that will create stronger regulations for the safe storage of firearms and the appearances of imitation weapons to prevent unintentional gun violence.

- Senate Bill S.2450A, which I sponsored, will establish penalties for anyone who has a child under 16 in their home and who doesn't properly store any firearm or render it incapable of being fired by using an appropriate gun-locking device.
- Senate Bill S.35, sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman, will require that imitation weapons must be entirely brightly colored or be constructed entirely of transparent or translucent materials, and be manufactured with other identifying features.

Our primary responsibility as legislators is to keep New York families safe. It is simply common sense that young children should not have unsupervised access to dangerous weapons, and no responsible gun owner would disagree. Too many times we have seen the tragic results when kids get their hands on guns. These tragedies are preventable, and by passing these bills we took an important step that will save lives and keep families whole.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Thursday March 14th:

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 myths, facts and possibilities. The third roundtable session will take place Thursday, March 14th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, and the topic will be loneliness. Speakers include Lauren Goldman, Deputy Volunteer Director, Friendly Visiting Program, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House; Lindsay Goldman, Director, Healthy Aging, NY Academy of Medicine; Jacqueline Berman, Director of Research, NYC Department for the Aging; and Manou Pardasani, Associate Professor Fordham Graduate School of Social Work. To RSVP visit https://tinyurl.com/lonelinessforum or call (212) 490-9535.

Fighting Loopholes Allowing Building Developers to Increase Building Height:

Last month, I joined a number of my colleagues and Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts in a letter to the Department of Buildings (DOB) Acting Commissioner regarding serious safety concerns about the building proposed at 249 East 62nd Street. My fellow East Side electeds and I previously supported a formal zoning challenge to the building permit application submitted by Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts in 2017. Plans for the building call for the creation of a 150-foot mechanical "void" space in the middle of the structure that would enable the developer to build a substantially taller building than would otherwise be permitted under existing zoning. In December 2018, the DOB referred plans for a similarly designed building on the Upper West Side to the NYC Fire Department so that specialists at the FDNY could review the how the proposed

mechanical void would impact fire safety operations. Based on this precedent, we urged the DOB to refer 249 East 62 Street to the FDNY for a similar review.

The proposed development at 249 East 62nd Street is part of a much broader problem of developers taking advantage of various zoning loopholes to construct supertall buildings that are out of character with their surrounding residential neighborhoods, and which would otherwise be prohibited under city zoning rules. Two separate proposals have recently been introduced to address these issues. The City Planning Commission certified a zoning text amendment in January that would limit the scale and frequency of mechanical void space that is currently exempt from zoning calculations. The text amendment is currently being reviewed by Community Boards, and is expected to be considered by the Manhattan Borough President and City Council in the coming months. Details on the proposal are available here: https://www.friends-ues.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Voids-One-Pager Jan2019.pdf. On the state level, I am proud to co-sponsor legislation (S.3820/A.5026), introduced by my colleagues Senator Robert Jackson and Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, that would amend the State Multiple Dwelling Law to strictly limit mechanical void exceptions, regulate floor-to-ceiling heights, and count certain outdoor spaces as floor area.

Older Adult Employment Strategies and Job Fair April 25 and 26:

On April 25th and 26th I will be holding two events aimed at providing resources for older adults who are seeking employment. Both events will take place at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues.

Because of space limitations, these events are limited to constituents of my Senate district.

On Thursday, April 25th from 10am to 1pm we will be offering a session on Job Search Strategies and Support with the assistance of the New York Public Library Science Industry and Business Library. The session will offer job coaching, resume development, a LinkedIn workshop and photo shoot.

On Friday, April 26th, we will hold a job fair with more than 20 employers seeking to hire older adults. Bring your resume.

To register, email <u>liz@lizkrueger.com</u> or call 212-490-9535. You can sign up for either or both sessions.

Upcoming City Council Charter Revision Commission Meetings:

The City Council has a charter revision commission for 2019 that includes members appointed by the Mayor, the City Council Speaker, all five Borough Presidents, the Public Advocate, and the Comptroller. The commission will hold five meetings in March, all of which start at 6 PM. Those meetings are March 11th, 14th, 18th, and 25th. The March 11th hearing will take place at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), Richard Harris Terrace, 199 Chambers Street. The other hearings will all take place at City Hall Council Chambers. Visit http://www.charter2019.nyc/ for more information.

NYU Dental Van Coming to the District March 13th:

The New York University (NYU) Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van program will be visiting my district this month on the following date:

Wednesday, March 13th from 9am-3pm at International HS, 40 Irving Place

The College's mobile dental care van brings comprehensive dental care to underserved children in New York City at public schools and Head Start facilities.

NYC Bar Association Forum on Age Discrimination in Employment April 23:

The New York City Bar Association is hosting a forum entitled "Age Discrimination In Employment And How To Fight It." The author Ashton Applewhite will speak about the many insidious forms of Ageism that surround us. Ashton will be joined by Dave Richards, a senior attorney from the Steptoe & Johnson law firm who will share stories about his winning a \$32M age discrimination lawsuit against another top-tier law firm, Sidley & Austin, in connection with the latter's attempt to force senior partners into mandatory retirement. The third speaker is attorney Roz Fink, who has, at various times in her quarter century of law practice, represented both sides in labor law, harassment and discrimination cases. After the speakers conclude their remarks, there will be audience participation in the form of Q&A. Ashton's new book, "This Chair Rocks!" will be available for purchase and Ashton will be happy to personally inscribe every copy sold.

Admission is \$15 per seat for members of the public and free to NYC Bar members but a large number of the seats are "Reserved For The Public." This lively and important conversation will take place Tuesday April 23 from 6:30-8 pm, in the New York City Bar Association's building at 42 West 44th Street, NYC, 10036. For more information or to register online, visit https://services.nycbar.org/EventDetail?EventKey=SEN042319.

Deadline to Apply for Property Tax Exemption Programs is March 15:

March 15th is the deadline for property owners who wish to challenge their assessed value, and/or apply for all property tax exemptions (STAR, SCHE, Disability, Veterans, Clergy) and condo and coop abatements. Please see the DOF website at

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords.page for more information.

Pre-K Applications Being Accepted through March 15:

The pre-K application for children born in 2015 is open now, and the deadline to apply is March 15, 2019. Children born in 2015 will begin pre-K in September 2019. All children of this age who are also current New York City residents are welcome to apply. To find a program or apply visit https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/pre-k.

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 except April 4

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: 212-744-5022

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

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

Telephone: (212) 592-7077

Site Hours: Tuesday, 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.

67th Street Library Closing for Renovations:

New York Public Library's 67th Street branch will temporarily close for approximately four months beginning on Friday, March 1 to undergo an over \$2 million improvement project. The branch is scheduled to reopen later this summer.

During this temporary closure, patrons are being encouraged to use nearby branches:

- 58th Street Library (127 East 58th Street, Manhattan)
- Webster Library (1465 York Avenue, Manhattan)

• Yorkville Library (222 East 79th Street, Manhattan)

The 67th Street project—funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Member Ben Kallos—will replace sections of the roof to improve drainage and water infiltration, as well as address upgrades to the electrical systems and HVAC units that heat and cool the building.

Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

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.
- Mondays from 9am to 3pm at Bellevue Hospital Ambulatory Care Pavilion, First Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets, 3rd Floor. Arrive by 2pm.
- March 8th and 22nd from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Casa Mutua Clinics at 159 East 102nd 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 <u>212-218-0503</u>, option <u>2</u>.

- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinics will take place March 5 and April 23 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before Noon 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 Clinics: By Appointment only. If you are receiving disability benefits, 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 DRIE. For more information, please email DRIE@lenoxhill.org or call 212-218-1503, option 0.
- Tenants Rights Advice Clinic: Walk-in clinic, now at 2 locations.
- April 11 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first Served, arrive by Noon.
- March 7 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Casa Mutua Clinics at 159 East 102nd Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m. Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.
- March 20 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the East Harlem Health Action Center, 158 East 115th Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m. Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.
- 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.

VOLS Legal Clinics for Seniors:

The VOLS Elderly Project will be at one location in my district this month. The 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 March 8th - 2:00 pm, Legal Clinic, Burden Center for the Aging, 415 East 73rd Street (b/t 1st and York) Friday, March 15th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street

Monday March 25th - 10:00 am, Legal Clinic, Encore Community Services Center, 239 West 49th Street (b/t Broadway and 8th Ave.)

And, just across the Park on the Westside: Monthly Housing Clinics and Workshops:

Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Goddard Riverside's SRO Law Project, and the Urban Justice Center co-sponsor monthly housing clinics and workshops at the Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue (between 88th and 89th Streets). On the first Wednesday of each month, from 6pm – 8pm, the clinic offers a presentation on a variety of topics, followed by a question and answer session. Each evening, at least one staff attorney will meet with individuals who are seeking specific legal advice.

For questions, contact the Office of Council Member Rosenthal at (212) 873-0282 ext. 206 or Helen@helenrosenthal.com. Sign-up sheet starting at 6pm each evening.

April 3, 2019: Eviction Prevention: Residency Challenges, Clutter, Unapproved Alterations, Nuisances May 1, 2019: Succession Rights I: Family, Partners and Others

June 5, 2019: Succession Rights II: Apartment Sharing, Roommates, Sublets, Short-term rentals

<u>Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:</u>

1766-68 Second Avenue Apartments is now accepting applications for 28 affordable studio, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 1766-68 Second Avenue in the Yorkville neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments are \$1,018 to \$1,740, depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$36,858 and \$96,800 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to residents of Community Board 8 for 50% of units mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/682.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to 1766-68 Second Avenue Apartments c/o Breaking Ground, PO Box 3620937,New York, NY, 10036.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 16, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

847 St. Nicholas Avenue Apartments is now accepting applications for 38 affordable studio, 1- and 2- bedroom apartments newly constructed at 847 St. Nicholas Avenue Avenue in the Hamilton Heights neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$475 to \$1,1186 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$18,240 and \$62,580 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to residents of Community Board 8 for 50% of units mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual-and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/685.pdf.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 847 St. Nicholas Avenue Apartments, 1357 Broadway, Box 309 New York, NY 10018.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 22, 2019. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

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:

March 12, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

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

March12, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

March 20, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

March 20, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue - Bus

March 20, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue - Bus

March 21, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

March 21, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

March 26, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

March 26, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

March 26, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue - Bus

April 3, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & Third Avenue - Bus

April 3, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus

April 3, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue - Bus

April 4, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van

April 4, 8:00 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

April 4, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue - Van

April 5, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue - Van

April 5, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue - Van

April 5, 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.