



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
**BRAD HOYLMAN**

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**COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

**March 2014**

Dear Neighbor:

The following is a summary of some of my activities since my last report to Community Board Four ("CB4"). Many of my attached letters, testimonies, and press releases may also be found on my website at [www.hoylman.nysenate.gov](http://www.hoylman.nysenate.gov).

If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Robert Atterbury in my office at (212) 633-8052 or via email at [robert@bradhoylman.com](mailto:robert@bradhoylman.com). Visit my website for updates on my activities and other information you may find of interest.

Best regards,

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> District

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**Town Hall Meeting on "Vision Zero"**

On February 25, I hosted a capacity crowd at my town hall on "Vision Zero," the Mayor's plan to eliminate traffic fatalities within a decade. According to NYPD statistics, more than 16,000 pedestrians and cyclists were injured in traffic accidents last year, and 178 were killed, a number of those here in our State Senate District. I am grateful to the many constituents and activists who attended and helped to create an engaging and informative dialogue. Our expert panel—DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit Manhattan Director Cassandra Perez, NYPD Sergeant Amber Cafaro, CHEKPEDS Co-Founder Christine Berthet, and Transportation Alternatives Organizer Tom DeVito—covered a wide range of issues concerning immediate traffic safety concerns and long-term implementation of the Mayor's Vision Zero Action Plan. The full plan can be seen at [nyc.gov/visionzero](http://nyc.gov/visionzero) and a video of the town hall can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1fEMfAK>.

As was discussed, implementing parts of the plan will require State legislative action, and I strongly support the measures the Mayor has proposed. Moreover, I have introduced legislation he has called for that would grant NYC home rule to set its own, lower speed limit (S.6651), and that would require side under-ride guards for large trucks operating in the city to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and smaller vehicles from sliding underneath them (S.6648). Please find the complete Vision Zero state legislative agenda attached.

I will continue to work with the de Blasio administration, other colleagues in government, advocates, community organizations, and constituents to help New York City achieve its goal of zero traffic fatalities within a decade.

### **Demanding Community Input on Moynihan Station Air Rights**

Today, I joined Congressman Nadler, Senator Espaillat, Assembly Member Gottfried and Council Member Johnson in writing to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) to encourage it to include significant community input before advancing any effort to sell air rights from the Farley Post Office Building. The money from this sale will be used to fund Phase Two of Moynihan Station. Given the volume of air rights available, we strongly believe that community members and urban planners must be included in the earliest stages of identifying appropriate receiver sites. Further, any development that receives air rights should go through the New York City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (“ULURP”) for approvals if not allowed under current zoning, with extensive public review and discussion prior to certification. Please see our letter attached.

### **Calling for a State Energy Plan Based on Renewable Sources**

On February 20, I submitted testimony to the New York State Energy Planning Board regarding its 2014 Draft New York State Energy Plan. I thanked Board members for adhering to the state’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% by the year 2050, but asked them to reconsider their heavy reliance on natural gas as a means to displace coal, oil and nuclear power. While I heartily support a reduction in the use of these dirty and dangerous energy sources, I believe that they should be replaced by renewable sources rather than natural gas extracted through the dangerous process of hydrofracking. Please see my testimony attached.

### **Port Authority Records Should be Open to Public Review**

On February 11, I introduced legislation (S.6593) called the “Port Authority Open Government Act,” to subject the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to the Freedom of Information Law. The bill will close a gap in state law that exempts the Port Authority from standard freedom of information requests and help restore public confidence in the agency in the aftermath of reports of politically motivated decisions by some officials. The Port Authority has a major impact on the daily lives of New York and New Jersey residents and is responsible for implementing a multi-billion dollar budget to operate, regulate, and expand regional airspace, water, rail, and bridge

capacity. We cannot continue to allow the Port Authority to shield information from the public and the press. Please see a recent Daily News article on my efforts attached.

### **Victory on 30% Rent Cap for Low-Income People with HIV/AIDS**

At my urging, along with a coalition of advocates, human services organizations, and other elected officials, Governor Cuomo announced his support for a 30%-of-income rent contribution cap ("rent cap") to low-income people in the City's HIV/AIDS Services Administration ("HASA") rental assistance program. Earlier last month, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced he had included funding for the city's share of the HASA rent cap in his preliminary budget. Please find attached my statement thanking the Governor and Mayor for heeding our call to secure this affordable housing protection for approximately 10,000 low-income New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS.

### **Calling for Accountability over Unsafe Construction Conditions**

On February 24, I stood in solidarity with Build Up NYC and other labor advocates at a rally outside of 435 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, to call for developer and contractor accountability over unsafe working conditions. Just three days prior, a construction worker was severely injured at the site which is owned by JDS Development Group and Starwood Capital Group. Previously, in my district at West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, another Starwood/JDS project had racked up 20 reported safety violations and more than \$18,000 in fines. Fines for safety violations cannot be accepted as the cost of doing business. These developers and contractors must maintain safe job sites and be held responsible for their violations of the law that threaten the lives of workers.

### **Calling for Municipal Control of Minimum Wage**

On February 11, I joined Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the statewide Raise Up Coalition in advocating for legislation to allow municipalities to set their own local minimum wage rates above the current state floor of \$8 an hour. At a time when the number of low-wage jobs in our state is increasing, allowing municipalities to enact higher minimum wages to better align with local living costs could greatly improve the lives of millions of low income workers. Giving local governments direct control over their minimum wages is a great first step toward reducing income inequality in our state.

### **Nominations for NYS Senate Women of Distinction and Veterans Hall of Fame**

Each year, the New York State Senate honors a select group of outstanding women who enrich their communities and strengthen our state as "Women of Distinction." The Senate also honors outstanding veterans from the Empire State who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life by inducting them into the "New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame." I will soon be selecting the 27th State Senate District's 2014 honorees and I welcome your nominations. Please send me your suggestions at [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov). Please put "Woman of Distinction Nomination" or "Veteran's Hall of Fame Nomination" in the subject line, provide the full name and address of your nominee, and tell me why you think he or she deserves this recognition. Nominees

should be residents of the 27th State Senate District (you can look up the district by address at [www.nysenate.gov](http://www.nysenate.gov)), and nominations will be accepted until Thursday, March 20, 2014.

Last year, I was proud to honor two exceptional constituents: Woman of Distinction Susan Steinberg, whom you can read about at <http://bit.ly/1fESUFI>, and Veteran's Hall of Fame inductee Jerry Alperstein, whom you can read about at <http://bit.ly/ML5prW>.

### **NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program is Accepting Applications**

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program ("SYEP"), which provides New York City youth (14-24 years old) with paid summer employment for up to six weeks during July and August, is accepting applications through April 25. Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs at parks, summer camps, hospitals, small businesses, retail organizations, museums, and community based organizations. The SYEP also provides workshops to participants on job readiness, career exploration, financial planning and continuing education. Specialized programming for disabled, foster care, runaway/homeless and justice-involved youth is also available. Participants are selected via lottery system. For more information or to submit an application, please visit [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or call DYCD Youth Connect at 1 (800) 246-4646.

### **IRS Free File**

With just over a month until Tax Day (April 15), you should know that if you made \$58,000 or less in 2013, you're eligible for free preparation and e-filing of your taxes through IRS Free File. This program is made possible through a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a non-profit coalition of leading tax software companies. To learn more about the program or to see if you qualify, visit [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile) or call my office at (212) 633-8052.

## Vision Zero: State Legislative Priorities

| de Blasio Administration Proposal                                                                | Bill                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Grant NYC full local authority of the placement and number of red light cameras.                 | S.6115 (Espallat)                          |
| Grant NYC full local authority of the placement and number of speed cameras.                     |                                            |
| Grant NYC home rule to set its own speed limit.                                                  | S.6651 (Hoylman)                           |
| Strengthen Hayley & Diego's Law to punish drivers who carelessly harm pedestrians or bicyclists. | S.3644-A (Squadron)<br>A.2012-A (Kavanagh) |
| Increase penalties for driving with a suspended or revoked license.                              | S.6386 (Gianaris)<br>A.8587 (Markey)       |
| Increase penalties for leaving the scene of a crash.                                             | A.1257 (Colton)                            |
| Protect workers in work zones from reckless driving.                                             | S.1052 (Maziarz)<br>A.4560 (Hawley)        |
| Give NYC DOT employees engaged in work enhanced protection against assault.                      |                                            |
| Improve state driver education to improve interactions with pedestrians and bicyclists.          | S.6143 (Golden)<br>A.4914 (Mosley)         |
| Allow TLC to use speed cameras to sanction law-breaking drivers.                                 |                                            |
| Require rear wheel guards for large trucks operating in NYC.                                     | S.4326 (Diaz)<br>A.6418 (Crespo)           |
| Require side guards for large trucks operating in NYC.                                           | S.6648 (Hoylman)                           |



March 5, 2014

Kenneth Adams  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Empire State Development Corporation  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Re: Request for Proposals: Broker for  
Disposition of Excess Farley Building  
Development Rights

Dear Mr. Adams:

We write regarding the Moynihan Station and the Request for Proposals (RFP) that was released on February 6th. We understand the intent behind the RFP is to hire a broker or "listing agent" to determine the value of and sell the remaining 1.5 million square feet of Farley air rights. The money from the sale is intended to help fund "Phase 2" of the Moynihan project.

This RFP came as an unwelcome surprise to us. We had not been given notice of the timetable for or any indication of a plan or policy to guide the sale of the Farley air rights. This is a significant and unfortunate departure from previous practice relating to Moynihan. For the past several years, the Moynihan Station Community Advisory Committee (MSCAC) has been an active and welcome participant in the conversations around the development of the station. It is important that ESDC consults with the community's elected officials, Manhattan Community Boards 4 and 5, and the MSCAC before going forward.

The RFP marks the beginning of the process to transfer development rights from the Farley Building. As the representatives of this area, we share our community's concerns about significantly increasing density in the immediate area surrounding the station. Given the volume of air rights available, we strongly believe that community members and urban planners must be included in the earliest stages of identifying appropriate receiver sites. Further, any development that receives air rights should go through the New York City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) for approvals if not allowed under current zoning, with extensive public review and discussion prior to certification. We also request that the plan include a provision to spread the transfer of these development rights outside the immediate area, mitigating the potential for increasing overdevelopment of this area.

We have been strong supporters of the Moynihan project. However, it must not depart from appropriate processes for public decision-making.

We look forward to continue working with you as this project moves forward.

Very truly yours,



Richard N. Gottfried  
NYS Assembly Member



Jerrold Nadler  
US Congress Member



Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President



Adriano Espaillat  
NYS Senator



Brad Hoylman  
NYS Senator



Corey Johnson  
NYC Council Member

cc: Michael Evans, President, MSDC  
Manhattan Community Board 4  
Manhattan Community Board 5

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27TH SENATE DISTRICT

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**Testimony of State Senator Brad Hoylman  
Before the New York State Energy Planning Board  
Regarding the 2014 Draft Energy Plan**

**February 20, 2014**

I'd like to welcome the New York State Energy Planning Board to New York State's 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which I represent. This district includes the neighborhoods of Clinton/Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, Times Square, Greenwich Village, Midtown/East Midtown, the East Village, Lower East Side and the Upper West Side.

I want to thank the Board for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the 2014 Draft Energy Plan, and for the Board's hard work in developing this plan given the complexity of New York State's unique energy needs and resources.

I would also like to thank the Board for adhering to the commitment previously set by the State to reduce greenhouse gasses up to 80% by the year 2050. The plan contains valuable tools, such as the extension of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS), for meeting that 80% reduction goal.

These mechanisms represent environmentally progressive policy at its best, allowing for the public sector to encourage and guide the private sector toward the common good. We have already seen the impact of these tools on the promotion of clean energy in New York, as well as in other states. The continued use of RPS and EEPS will make renewable energies even more competitive in the years to come, allowing for the further displacement of the dirty fuels which are still too common today.

The plan is a first step in establishing a path to reducing our reliance on some of the more conventional fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change, and establishes contingencies for the shuttering of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, whose



operation presents well-known risks to residents throughout New York State, including my constituents here in Manhattan.

That being said, I am concerned by the plan's reliance on the expanded use of natural gas, especially in order to compensate for the reductions in other fuels and the potential reduction of nuclear power production.

While consumption of natural gas may offer lower levels of carbon dioxide emissions over more widely used fossil fuels such as coal and oil, the fact remains that natural gas is a fossil fuel itself, and its use also contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions which drive climate change. Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is emitted into the air during the extraction process. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane is 34 times more effective at trapping heat in our atmosphere over a 100-year period than is carbon dioxide.<sup>i</sup> Even more alarming, a recent study by researchers at Harvard University has found that the level of atmospheric methane is substantially higher than previously believed.<sup>ii</sup> Given these statistics, it is hard to see how natural gas represents a more responsible choice for powering our state. There are also emerging concerns regarding the release of radon through the use of natural gas. I believe we should have answers about the quantity and safety of radon being emitted before we further our reliance on the use of natural gas.

Switching from a harmful energy source to a slightly-less-harmful source, especially when more responsible energy options are available, is bad long-term policy. Furthermore, given the finite supply of natural gas, the potential for unpredictable variations in consumer prices, and the cost and scale of the additional infrastructure needed to deliver and use such fuel, increasing our reliance on natural gas would seem to be a short-sighted investment.

All of this is in addition to the externalities of the natural gas extraction process, which wreaks its own havoc on the environment, destroying landscapes, tainting water supplies, and contributing to asthma-inducing ozone, just to name a few. As you know, the process, known as hydraulic fracturing, requires pumping millions of gallons of water and chemicals at high-pressure into wells to access natural gas in dense mineral formations. While DEC has studied the catastrophes associated with natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania and around the nation, the agency has not developed a regulatory framework to ensure that New York will not suffer a similar fate. As such, I am a staunch opponent of permitting hydraulic fracturing, and I co-sponsor legislation to prohibit fracking anywhere in New York State. We owe it to the generation of tomorrow to be more vigilant with our energy choices today.

In 1931, well before our current debate over fossil fuels, Thomas Edison likened our reliance on non-renewable energy sources to "chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using nature's inexhaustible sources of energy—sun,

wind, and tide." More than 80 years later, in light of our modern scientific understanding of how our energy consumption affects the planet, his words are especially prescient. I appreciate the New York State Energy Planning Board being judicious in our current policy so that 80 years from now we will not have destroyed our house altogether. Therefore, I urge the Board to explore opportunities to harness new energy technologies and further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, including natural gas.

Thank you for your time, and for your consideration of my comments here today.

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<sup>i</sup> International Panel on Climate Change (September 2013). *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*. Retrieved from [http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGIAR5\\_WGI-12Doc2b\\_FinalDraft\\_All.pdf](http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGIAR5_WGI-12Doc2b_FinalDraft_All.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Miller, S. M., et al. (November 2013). *Anthropogenic Emissions of Methane in the United States*. Retrieved from <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/11/20/1314392110.abstract>

# DAILY NEWS

## State Sen. Brad Hoylman to introduce bill to make Port Authority more transparent

**He wants agency to comply with state's Freedom of Information Law in the wake of Christie scandal**

BY [GLENN BLAIN](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014, 7:33 PM

ALBANY - In the wake of Gov. Christie's Bridgegate scandal, a state lawmaker from Manhattan is looking to shed light on the inner workings of the Port Authority.

Sen. Brad Hoylman, a Democrat, plans to introduce legislation Tuesday that would make the Port Authority comply with the state's Freedom of Information Law governing the release of internal documents.

"We might avoid future bridgegates if the public and the press had more leverage over confidential documents," Hoylman told the Daily News.

Hoylman said the Port Authority is not subject to public disclosure laws of either New York or New Jersey. Instead, it has its own policy - known as the Freedom of Information Code - that is less binding and easier to circumvent.

Hoylman noted the code allowed officials to deny several recent media requests for emails and other documents related to the George Washington Bridge scandal.

"This would really close the loophole that has allowed the Port Authority to evade scrutiny from the public, the press and from the legislatures of both states," Hoylman said.

Hoylman's bill is modeled after legislation in the New Jersey. Both states need to approve the measure before takes effect.

"I think the timing is certainly ideal for this," said New Jersey Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle (D-Englewood), a sponsor of the bill.

Huttle said the George Washington Bridge scandal has given new momentum to the measure.

A Port Authority spokesman said the agency already has a "strong commitment to transparency and providing access records."

Hoylman's legislation is not the only bill in Albany that calls for reforms at the Port Authority.

Brooklyn Assemblyman Jim Brennan is pressing ahead with legislation that would enact a stricter code of ethics and more stringent financial reporting requirements at the Port Authority.



**BRAD HOYLMAN**  
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
27TH DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 21, 2014

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**Statement by Senator Brad Hoylman on Governor Cuomo's Inclusion of  
a 30%-of-Income Rent Cap for New York City's HIV/AIDS Rental**

Governor Cuomo's decision to include in his 30-day amendments the affordable housing rent contribution cap to low-income people in the City's HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) rental assistance program will prevent homelessness and dramatically improve the health and well-being of more than 10,000 vulnerable New Yorkers.

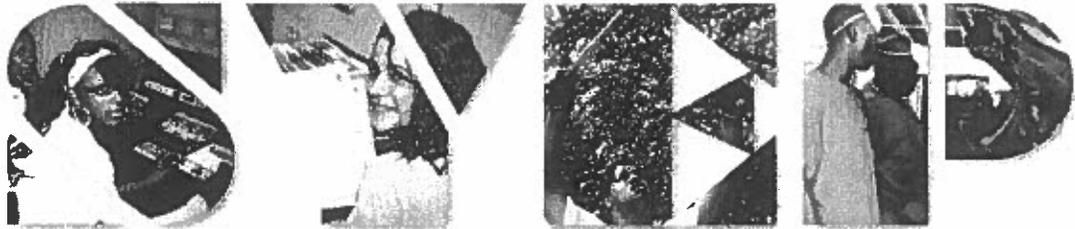
I applaud Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio for working together to secure this affordable housing protection that will reduce emergency shelter and healthcare costs and bring the HASA Rental Assistance Program into line with other state and federal low-income housing programs. No longer will low-income HASA clients have to choose between paying for rent or other basic essentials.

Thank you to my colleagues in the Senate Democratic Conference, especially Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for keeping the rent contribution cap at the forefront of the conference's agenda. With the continued partnership of VOCAL-NY, other advocates, and fellow elected officials, I will keep fighting to secure inclusion of this fair and cost-effective public health intervention in the final enacted budget.

###



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The application deadline is Friday, April 25, 2014. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is open to all NYC residents between the ages of 14-24.