



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN

322 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1700, New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 633-8052 Fax: (212) 633-8096

hoylman.nysenate.gov



COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
February 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.

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. Visit my website for updates on my activities and other information you may find of interest.

Best regards,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Counting Down to Vision Zero

On Tuesday, February 25, I am hosting a Pedestrian and Traffic Safety town hall at which a representative of the de Blasio administration will report on implementation of "Vision Zero," the Mayor's plan to eliminate traffic fatalities within a decade. Last month the Mayor charged an interagency working group, including the Department of Transportation, NYPD, Taxi and Limousine Commission and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with developing a comprehensive roadmap for safer streets by February 15. My forum will give Manhattan residents an opportunity to hear the latest news on the plan as well as information on how pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can co-exist more safely on our streets today. Please join me and many of my colleagues who are co-sponsoring the event on February 25th, from 6-8pm, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 524 West 59th Street, 6th Floor (between 10th & 11th Avenues). Please see the flier attached for more information.

Supporting a Study of Extending the 7 Train to New Jersey

Earlier this month, I wrote to Governor Cuomo to support CB4's request for the allocation of \$2 million for an advanced feasibility study of the extension of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's No. 7 Train. The extension of the line to Frank R. Lautenberg Station in Secaucus would give hundreds of thousands of commuters an alternative to driving or taking a bus through the Lincoln Tunnel, reducing congestion and queuing on both sides of the river – as well as improving air quality and quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods. Please see my letter attached.

Supporting Co-Terminality for Precinct and Community Board Lines

Today I spearheaded a letter with Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and Councilmember Corey Johnson to the recently appointed New York City Police Department Commissioner William Bratton to request the department align the boundary between the 13th Precinct and the 10th Precinct with the boundary between CB4 and CB5. This longstanding CB4 request would unite the blocks from 14th Street to 29th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues with the rest of the Chelsea neighborhood in the jurisdiction of the 10th Precinct. Please see our letter attached.

Hailing Assembly Passage of SLA Transparency Legislation

I would like to extend my congratulations to Assembly Member Deborah Glick for spearheading passage in the Assembly of A6073, which requires the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to make information pertaining to any conditions it imposes on an on-premises liquor license available on its website. I sponsor the legislation in the Senate (S3077) and know all too well from the communities I represent that residents, community boards and even local police precincts now have no way of knowing the specifics of on-premises liquor licenses. The public, the police, and applicants themselves deserve to know exactly the terms of every license granted by the SLA so they can ensure that establishments that are noisy or raucous well into the morning are operating correctly, and so the law can be appropriately enforced if they are not. I applaud Speaker Silver, Assembly Member Glick, and their colleagues in the Assembly for working to solve this problem for communities across New York City. I am working to ensure that the Senate acts to follow suit.

Speaking Out on TF Cornerstone

Last month I submitted testimony to the New York City Planning Commission regarding TF Cornerstone's effort to create a new, mixed use residential and commercial development at 606 W. 57 Street. Much like CB4, I applauded the applicant's provision of permanent affordable housing through the inclusionary housing bonus, while expressing concerns regarding the developer's history of bad labor practices. In my testimony I echoed CB4's call for the entire floor area – both residential and commercial – to be included when calculating the Floor Area Ratio for the affordable housing bonus, as well as a reduction in parking spaces. Please see my testimony attached.

Supporting a New Location for Stile's Market

Today I joined Councilmember Corey Johnson, Congress Member Jerry Nadler, Borough President Gale Brewer, and Assembly Member Dick Gottfried in writing to the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey (PANY) to open a discussion about securing a viable location for Stile's Farmers Market in Hell's Kitchen. We would like to explore the possibility of space for this affordable grocery store on PANY property at 551 Ninth Avenue near 42nd Street to ensure the health and well-being of residents along Manhattan's West Side. Please see our letter attached.

Governor Cuomo's 2014 State of the State Address

On January 8, Governor Cuomo delivered an impassioned and thoughtful State of the State on a wide range of topics including ethics reforms, economic development, education and infrastructure improvement.

In particular I am encouraged by the Governor's commitment to implementing the good government reforms suggested by the Moreland Commission. We have a long way to go to restore New Yorkers' trust in their government and we cannot afford to delay these crucial reforms any longer. We must make them a top priority in order to instill the confidence in our legislature to pass the many great ideas presented in the Governor's speech, including investing in affordable housing, creating a tax credit for low- and moderate-income renters, expanding educational opportunities, and supporting crucial investments in infrastructure.

I'm also heartened that the Governor called for legislation that will strengthen reporting of discrimination in our schools. In August, I issued a report on the Hate Crimes Law that discussed the need to examine the way Hate Crimes are reported in New York State. I look forward to working with the Governor to help fight hatred and discrimination wherever it is found.

In addition, the Governor's plan for the state takeover of the construction projects at LaGuardia and JFK Airports is a win for millions of airline passengers and promises to improve New York's standing as an international center for commerce and culture.

I'm grateful that the Governor reaffirmed his commitment to the full ten-point *Women's Equality Act*, including a woman's right to choose, and public financing of elections. Also, we must take decisive action this session to pass the *Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act*, ban hydrofracking, increase protections for tenants, eliminate excessive testing for our school kids, preserve services for our seniors, and strengthen the minimum wage and other protections for workers. I look forward to working with the Governor and my colleagues in the legislature on these important issues.

30% Rent Cap for Low-Income People with HIV/AIDS

Over the past several months, I have been working with advocates from VOCAL-NY as well as other elected officials and HIV/AIDS activists to ensure the state's fiscal year

2014-15 budget includes funding to implement a 30%-of-income rent contribution cap for low-income, disabled people in the state's HIV/AIDS rental assistance program. Every other affordable housing program in the state already has such a rent contribution cap. I carry legislation with Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez (S.3022/A.7782) that would accomplish this goal. Please see attached a recent news article about my efforts as well as a statement I released yesterday calling on Governor Cuomo to use a portion of the \$81.5 million from the J.P. Morgan Chase settlement intended for housing-related purposes to close this loophole.

Push for Major Hike in Education Aid

On January 13, I joined 82 of my colleagues in the State Legislature in sending a letter to Governor Cuomo in support of the Alliance for Quality Education's request that he increase school aid by \$1.9 billion in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Executive Budget. I am disappointed that the Executive Budget, released January 21, included an increase of only \$800 million in education aid, less than half of what we had requested. Despite education funding increases in New York's past two budgets, the state is still lagging in funding public schools. We must fully and equitably fund the New York City education system and school districts throughout the state, as mandated by the Court of Appeals' order in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit, and I will work with my colleagues in the legislature to find the full \$1.9 billion truly needed by our schools. It is adults -- not children -- who have the responsibility to make certain we have a literate, educated, and functioning workforce and democracy in New York State. Please see our letter attached.

Protecting the New York Public Library

On January 22, I sent a letter to Mayor de Blasio applauding his opposition to the renovation plan for the New York Public Library's Central Library as New York City Public Advocate. I expressed my deep concern about several of the proposed changes presented in the plan, namely the displacement of the historic stacks and consolidation of the Mid-Manhattan and Science, Industry and Business Libraries into a space less than one-third their current size. Numerous community groups are also opposed to the plan, and I joined their call to halt the process and for an independent, evaluative review of the financial risks of and possible alternatives to the current plan. Please see my letter attached.

Don't Forget to File for the Earned Income Tax Credit

If you earned less than \$51,567 last year in wages or through self-employment, you may be eligible for a refundable tax credit worth up to \$6,044. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a credit that must be filed and claimed on your federal tax return. Millions of taxpayers will be eligible for the credit for the first time this year, regardless of household composition.

If you qualify for the federal EITC, you may also qualify for a similar credit on your state tax return. The credit is fully refundable for full-time New York State residents, and is equal to 30% of your allowable federal earned income credit, reduced by the amount of any household credit. The New York State credit can be filed for through

form IT-215. For further information about claiming the federal or state EITC, visit <http://bit.ly/1d6pn6o>, or call me at (212) 633-8052.

Concerns about High Stakes Testing in our Schools

I am deeply concerned about the emphasis on high-stakes testing as a measure of student learning, teacher effectiveness and school performance. We need to broaden our understanding of education, move away from “teaching to the test,” and relieve the pressure on our students. Toward that end, I am a co-sponsor of legislation (S.4764-A) prohibiting high-stakes, standardized testing for schoolchildren in pre-K through second grade and support other measures to reduce excessive testing. This year, the terms of 4 of the 17 members of the State Board of Regents will expire. I will carefully evaluate the candidates regarding their views of high-stakes testing and other critical education policy issues when they come before the Senate for confirmation. It is important that we reduce the emphasis on testing in our schools and amplify the voices of parents, students and educators in education policy.

Supporting Justice for Rape Victims

On January 11, I joined Congresswoman Maloney, Assembly Member Dan Quart and brave Manhattan rape survivor Natasha Alexenko to call on the federal government to reduce the dangerous national rape-kit backlog and reauthorize the *Justice for All Act*. Natasha was forced to wait 15 years for the evidence she needed to convict her attacker due to the rape-kit processing backlog, currently estimated at 400,000. This act will increase funding for DNA evidence processing to ensure that medical examiners across the country have the tools to process evidence for criminal cases quickly and accurately.

I am grateful to Congresswoman Maloney for her leadership and will continue to do everything I can to support her efforts to ensure that victims of rape and sexual assault are given the evidence they need to seek justice.

Fighting Dangerous LGBT Conversion “Therapy”

Last month, I reintroduced legislation that would bar licensed mental health providers from engaging patients under 18 in sexual orientation change efforts, which are sometimes known as conversion “therapy.” Since the legislature gavelled out last spring, New Jersey and California passed groundbreaking legislation banning this so-called “therapy” and now is the time for New York to do the same. This practice has been thoroughly discredited by experts, including the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics and poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Attached please see a recent *Wall Street Journal* article on our efforts to protect our state’s children from this practice.

Clinical Guidelines Released on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV

On January 14, the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute released long-awaited clinical guidelines for the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV infection among those at high risk. PrEP is a relatively new intervention to prevent

HIV transmission, in which people who do not have HIV take a daily pill (Truvada, manufactured by Gilead) to reduce their risk of becoming infected. A lack of awareness and understanding of PrEP among both providers and prospective patients has suppressed its use. Since last summer, I have worked with activists from ACT UP/NY and Treatment Action Group to urge the AIDS Institute to expedite release of its clinical guidance document, both to promote PrEP's effective use in our state and to inform medical providers far beyond our borders who look to New York as a leader in HIV/AIDS policy. The new PrEP guidelines for clinicians are available at www.hivguidelines.org. Please find the AIDS Institute's PrEP fact sheet for consumers attached.

Preserving LGBT History

On January 28, I wrote to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in support of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's proposal that it begin formally recognizing sites of significance to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) movement within previously designated New York City Historic Districts. While the LPC has begun acknowledging LGBT history in its more recent designation reports, there are numerous sites in existing historic districts that have not received such recognition. Amending existing designation reports to reflect places of significance to the LGBT movement would go a long way toward preserving this chapter of civil rights history, as would consideration of designating these and other sites as individual landmarks based upon their place in LGBT history. Please see my letter attached.

Still Time to Enroll in New York State of Health

While enrollment in New York State of Health, our state's new health insurance marketplace, began on October 1, 2013, enrollment remains open for individuals, business owners and employees until March 31, 2014. For anyone seeking help in navigating the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the US Small Business Administration, in conjunction with New York City's Human Resources Administration, is hosting a public event featuring topical presentations, information tables and onsite "navigators" who can help you enroll in a plan. The event, *Opportunities & Responsibilities: Navigating the Affordable Care Act*, will take place February 12, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, at 26 Federal Plaza (enter on Duane Street, between Broadway & Lafayette), 6th floor. Please see the flier attached for further information.

Free Tax Preparation Aid

Looking for help to prepare your taxes ahead of the April 15 deadline? Community Tax Aid, Inc. is offering free tax preparation for individuals with income up to \$25,000 and for families with income up to \$50,000. Preparation is done by fully trained professionals who specialize in and can best identify credits available for low- and moderate-income filing. Please see their flier attached for more information, or call Community Tax Aid, Inc. at (646) 200-5080 to make an appointment.



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Presents

Counting Down to "Vision Zero"

A Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Town Hall

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

524 West 59th Street, 6th Floor

(between 10th & 11th Avenues)



Featuring:

**NYC Mayor's Office • NYC Department of Transportation
NYPD • Transportation Alternatives • CHEKPEDS**

Co-Sponsors:

U.S. Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney and Jerrold Nadler

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer

State Senators Liz Krueger, José M. Serrano, Daniel Squadron

Assembly Members Deborah Glick, Dick Gottfried, Brian Kavanaugh, Dan Quart, Linda Rosenthal

City Council Members Dan Garodnick, Corey Johnson, Mark Levine, Rosie Mendez, Helen Rosenthal

(list in formation)

For more information or to RSVP

email hoylman@nysenate.gov or call 212-633-8052

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
122 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8095

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2451
FAX (518) 426-6846

E-MAIL: HOYLMAN@NYSenate.GOV
WEBSITE: HOYLMAN.NYSenate.GOV



THE SENATE
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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:
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PARKS & RECREATION
JUDICIARY

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Proposed No. 7 Train Extension to New Jersey

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to urge your support for further study of the extension of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) No. 7 Train to Frank R. Lautenberg Station (FRL Station) in Secaucus, and ask that \$2 million be included in the FY 2014-2015 budget for an advanced feasibility study on this crucial infrastructure project.

Recently, the bi-state, multi-agency No. 7 Train Extension Study Group (the Study Group) completed a preliminary study of the extension's feasibility in order to meet the growing transit travel demand between New Jersey and Manhattan, which is projected to increase by 38% by 2030. The Study Group concluded that extending the No. 7 Train to FRL Station would greatly improve trans-Hudson access between New York and New Jersey, serving an estimated 127,900 daily riders by 2035. Additionally, extending the No. 7 Train to New Jersey would generate economic activity, ease commuter and traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

A 2005 study commissioned of the former Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project found a new tunnel into Manhattan would increase economic activity in the region by \$10 billion. The study projected that within ten years of opening the tunnel would increase the region's tax base by \$480 million and help create approximately 44,000 largely business and professional services jobs, two-thirds of them in New York. Although an economic impact study has not yet been completed for the No. 7 Train



Extension, the NYC Mayor's office has determined it would have a significantly larger economic footprint than that of the proposed ARC project.

According to the Study Group report, capital costs for the No. 7 Train Extension will be developed in the next stage of analysis should the parties agree to proceed, and existing investments and infrastructure could be leveraged to help keep the cost down. Furthermore, a new trans-Hudson tunnel could accommodate the needs of both the No. 7 Train as well as Amtrak's proposed Gateway project.

Increasing ridership on an extended No. 7 Train would also serve to divert thousands of commuters from other over-burdened modes of transportation. The Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT), which is located in my Senate District, currently sees 7,400 buses arriving daily. The PABT is already at maximum capacity, in the face of an ever-increasing travel demand. By pairing the extension of the No. 7 Train with the construction of a bus terminal at FRL Station in Secaucus, the daily burden on the PABT would be reduced, and it would have greater capacity to handle increasing demand.

The extension of the No. 7 Train would give thousands of commuters an alternative to driving through the Lincoln Tunnel, reducing congestion and queuing on both sides of the river. Decreasing the number of cars and buses idling on city streets would improve air quality and quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Additional funds are required to complete an advanced feasibility study, including a detailed project plan and finalized capital costs. I request that \$2 million be included in the FY 2014-2015 budget for an advanced feasibility study, and that this effort be incorporated into the Port Authority's plans to renovate the PABT and construct an additional bus garage.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (212) 633-8052 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate
27th District

cc: Mr. Patrick Foye, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey



February 5, 2014

William Bratton
Commissioner
New York Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Bratton:

We wish to bring to your attention the enclosed June 8, 2012 letter Manhattan Community Board Four (CB4) sent to your predecessor proposing that the New York City Police Department align the boundary between the 13th Precinct and the 10th Precinct with the boundary between community districts – which was a renewal of a longstanding community request. We strongly support the proposal, which would unite the blocks from 14th Street to 26th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues with the rest of the Chelsea neighborhood in the jurisdiction of the 10th Precinct.

Please know that we have tremendous appreciation for the exceptional work that the commanders and officers of both the 10th and 13th Precincts do every day and night to keep our constituents safe and secure. However, we believe that changing this boundary line would be beneficial for both those who live and work in the affected neighborhoods as well as the NYPD.

As CB4 notes, the small portion of East Chelsea now in the 13th Precinct is geographically closer to the 10th Precinct's station house, which would foster greater community-police engagement. Furthermore, the residents and businesses on those blocks identify as part of Chelsea, rather than the Flatiron neighborhood directly to the East, which is a natural border for the 13th Precinct.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you. Should you wish to have a conference call or meeting on this matter, please contact Senator Hoylman at (212) 633-8052.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
NY State Senator

Richard N. Gottfried
NY Assembly Member

Corey Johnson
NYC Councilmember

Encl.

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DISTRICT OFFICE

322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8096

ALBANY OFFICE

ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2451
FAX: (518) 426-6846

E-MAIL: HOYLMAN@NYSENATE.GOV
WEBSITE: HOYLMAN.NYSENATE.GOV

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:

CONSUMER PROTECTION
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PARKS & RECREATION
JUDICIARY

**Testimony of State Senator Brad Hoylman
Before the New York City Planning Commission
Regarding 606 W. 57 LLC
ULURP Applications C 130336ZMM, N130337ZRM,
N130338ZRM, C 130339ZSM, N130340ZAM**

I represent New York State's 27th Senate District, which covers the block bounded by West 56th Street, West 57th Street, Eleventh Avenue, and Twelfth Avenue in Manhattan in which 606 W 7th Street is located. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding the application by 606 W. 57 LLC, otherwise known as TF Cornerstone ("the applicant"), to create a new, mixed use residential and commercial development which may include community facility, public parking and automotive sales and service uses (the "project").

I am concerned regarding the proposed project because of the applicant's record of bad labor practices and troublesome safety record. Notably, in January of this year, a crane collapsed when attempting to lift more than twice the crane's capacity at one of the applicant's projects in Long Island City, pinning three workers and injuring four others. This is after the applicant was cited in 2012 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for failure to follow adequate fall protection system criteria and practices. A developer is responsible for the safety of its workers and its worksite, and these violations must be considered when considering approval for a large-scale project in a dense urban environment.

Much like Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4), in their December 9, 2013 resolution on this topic, I applaud the applicant's commitment to permanent affordable housing through the inclusionary housing bonus, which allows greater Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in exchange for affordable housing. However, I am concerned that the calculation for the FAR of the inclusionary units does not reflect 20% of the building as a whole, but only 20% of the residential FAR. I believe that the FAR of the entire building, both residential and commercial, should be considered when calculating the affordable FAR. Additionally, much like CB4, I feel strongly that any affordable units must be evenly

distributed throughout the building and exposures, and that the units must contain the same fixtures and finishes as all market rate units.

Should this project be allowed to proceed, I believe the Commission should limit the allowed parking to 400 accessory parking only spaces should it approve the commercial automatic use, 295 accessory spaces without an on-site automotive use.

Without resolution of these concerning issues, I urge the Commission to deny this proposed project. Thank you again for your consideration of my remarks.



February 5, 2014

Patrick J. Foye
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10003

Dear Mr. Foye:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents who are very concerned about the closure of the Stile's Market on the west side of Ninth Avenue between West 41st and West 42nd Streets. The closure of this longstanding community operation adds to an already serious lack of affordable, fresh foods grocers on Manhattan's West Side.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has played an important role in the development of Manhattan's West Side; from ensuring that our roads, tunnels, and transportation terminals are funded and safe, to partnering in the creation of a greener and cleaner west side. As a community partner, we are sure that you will share in our concern with this impending matter.

Since 1987, Steve Stile has operated the Stile's Farmers Market, which provided fresh foods at affordable prices for residents of the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods. On December 31, 2013, developers issued an eviction notice to Mr. Stile forcing him to close his market immediately so they can develop on the southern portion of the West 42nd Street lot. The closure of this market shut a vital supply line of affordable, fresh food to these neighborhoods. Since then we have received an outpouring of community support to secure a new location for this market near their former location on Ninth Avenue.

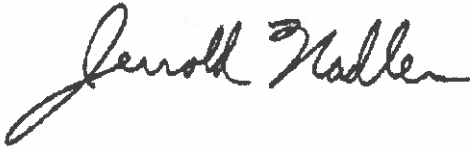
We write to request a meeting with you to discuss the feasibility of securing a viable location for Stile's Farmers Market in Hell's Kitchen. We are interested in discussing the possibility of utilizing the property at 551 Ninth Avenue, which is owned by the Port Authority and was the former space for Project Find's Senior Center until 2012.

We are committed to securing a space for an affordable grocery store near West 42nd Street to ensure the health and well-being of residents along Manhattan's West Side. We understand that Mr. Stile is ready to sign a lease of up to 10-years, and to begin operating with the approval of the Port Authority.

We look forward to scheduling a time to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to ensure that residents in our community have access to affordable, fresh foods in the coming years. Please contact Matt Green in Councilmember Corey Johnson's office to schedule the meeting at 212-564-7757 or mgreen@council.nyc.gov.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jerrod Nadler
10th Congressional District (NY)



Brad Hoylman
State Senator



Richard N. Gottfried
Assembly Member



Corey Johnson
Councilmember, 3rd District



Cuomo Budget Doesn't Solve AIDS Rent Cap Challenge

January 22, 2014

BY PAUL SCHINDLER | Despite a concerted drive in recent weeks by advocates and elected officials, Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 does not include appropriation of funds to ensure that New Yorkers living with AIDS and receiving government rental assistance will have the effective rent they pay capped at 30 percent of their monthly income.

In a public policy battle, dating back at least seven years, to close what State Senator Brad Hoylman characterized as a loophole in New York law, AIDS advocates had hoped Cuomo would step up with funding of at least \$5.8 million during his annual budget address in Albany on January 21.

Hoylman, an out gay Chelsea Democrat who sponsors legislation to impose such a cap on the rental assistance program run out of the city's HIV/ AIDS Services Administration (HASA) and similar units statewide, wrote to the governor last week laying out an analysis that showed that the roughly \$20 million in incremental costs required to fund the rent cap would be offset nearly exactly by savings to the state and city from either curing rental arrears by housing assistance clients or providing them with emergency housing if they lose their apartments. More than 12,000 people with AIDS statewide receive rental assistance.

Depending on the state/ city funding formula applied to a rent cap appropriation, Albany would pick up between \$5.8 million and \$10 million of the total \$20 million upfront cost, with the city providing the remainder.

The rental assistance provided to people living with AIDS currently requires them to pay up to 70 percent of their disability income toward rent and leaves them with only about \$375 each month -- or less than \$13 a day -- for all other expenses, a situation that forces many to choose between paying their rent and having money for food, transportation, and drug co-pays.

Hoylman's letter emphasized that every other federal and state low-income rental assistance program -- including Section 8 and NYCHA housing -- has a 30 percent cap.

The issue has festered in Albany for years. In 2010, the Legislature sent the bill Hoylman now co-sponsors with East Harlem Democratic Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez to Governor David Paterson for his signature, but the lame duck Democrat, in the face of intense lobbying from former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, vetoed it. In 2012, the Republican-controlled Senate, which had once before approved the measure, defeated it, again at the behest of Bloomberg.

Hoylman's letter to Cuomo, which he said was a follow-up to a conversation the two had at the Executive Mansion the day the governor delivered his State of the State speech, was just one part of the recent drive to elevate the visibility of the 30 percent rent cap issue. In an effort organized by VOCAL-NY, the grassroots housing advocacy group that has led the rent cap fight for years, more than 100 gay figures from organized labor and the entertainment and arts world joined Hoylman, Rodriguez, out gay Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, and City Councilmen Daniel Dromm, Corey Johnson, Carlos Menchaca, and Ritchie Torres, all of whom are gay as well, in a sign-on letter to the governor.

The list included American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, Stuart Appelbaum, who heads the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, SEIU 1199 political director Kevin Finnegan, Empire State Pride Agenda executive director Nathan Schaefer, Bravo's Andy Cohen, singer and actor Alan Cumming, playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein, playwright Terrence McNally, and actor and prominent de Blasio supporter Cynthia Nixon.

Now that Cuomo has passed up the chance to tackle the rent cap in his budget address, advocates are focused on three possibilities going forward. The first is the chance that the administration might yet incorporate funding into its 21-day budget amendments, a procedure typically used to make technical corrections to the governor's initial outline. Hoylman pointed out that Cuomo's January 21 address did not take account of the \$81 million now available to the administration as part of the first phase of J.P. Morgan's mortgage bond settlement with New York State. The settlement money is intended to address state housing needs, the senator noted.

Failing that, advocates will focus efforts between now and the end of June on pressing for legislative approval of the Hoylman-Rodriguez bill. Sean Barry, VOCAL-NY's executive director, pointed out that a lopsided majority of the current State Senate has at some point in the past voted in favor of rent cap legislation. Though Majority Leader Dean Skelos, a Republican, voted against the measure in 2012 and did not allow a vote last year, Democrat Diane Savino, a Staten Island Democrat who caucuses with the Republicans as part the four-member Independent Democratic Conference, "has shown a strong interest in this," Barry said.

Two critical factors Barry cited in voicing optimism about legislative action this year are the fact that New York now has a mayor, Bill de Blasio, who supports the concept and the possibility that Cuomo could also endorse the measure. Hoylman said, "The mayor has certainly made his opinion known to me and to other legislators," and Barry emphasized, "We feel like we're having productive conversations with the Cuomo administration."

One other avenue that both Hoylman and Barry said could provide relief on the rent cap issue is the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT), a state unit responsible for finding efficiencies in the state's mammoth Medicaid system.

"It's clear that this administration understands that AIDS housing is a health issue," Barry said.

How an MRT solution might be structured, however, is less clear, since the unit is tasked primarily with finding savings in direct healthcare costs. The beauty of enacting a rent cap legislatively, Barry explained, is that the cost expenditures of subsidizing rents to cap them at 30 percent of income come from the same pot of money where the offsetting reductions in rental arrears and emergency housing costs would be realized.

Neither Cuomo's office nor de Blasio's responded to requests for comment on the rent cap issue.



BRAD HOYLMAN
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
27TH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2014

**State Senator Brad Hoylman Says Close the HIV/AIDS Rental Assistance
Loophole with J.P. Morgan Settlement Funds**

"The \$81.5 million from the J.P. Morgan Chase settlement available to Governor Cuomo for housing-related purposes is an opportunity to close a loophole in state law that discriminates against low income New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS. Currently the state's HIV/AIDS Rental Assistance Program is excluded from the 30%-of-income rent contribution cap that applies to every other federal and New York State low-income housing program.

Because of this anomaly in the law, low-income New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS must choose between paying for rent or other basic essentials, such as utilities, transportation, clothing, and unreimbursed medical expenses. This predicament places many of them at high risk of eviction and the need for costlier emergency housing. Studies have shown that the Rent Cap proposal will pay for itself by preventing unnecessary costs associated with housing loss and homelessness and also result in significant Medicaid savings.

The cost of extending the cap is estimated at \$20 million annually, approximately \$6 million of which would be the state share, the remainder to be covered by New York City. At a legislative budget hearing on January 27, 2014, Mayor de Blasio explicitly stated his support for the proposal.

The 30% rent cap for the HIV/AIDS rental assistance program is fair and equitable for thousands of low-income New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS and a cost-effective strategy for taxpayers. I urge the Governor and his administration to use funds from the J.P. Morgan Chase settlement to implement it."

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



KEVIN PARKER
21st State Senate District

CATHERINE NOLAN
37th State Assembly District

KARIM CAMARA
43rd State Assembly District

January 10th, 2014

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to express our urgent concerns about the state of primary and secondary education in New York. Quite simply we are not fulfilling the Campaign for Fiscal Equity commitment for school districts throughout New York State. In fact, we are \$5.3 billion behind on our CFE commitment, which does not take into consideration the \$1.6 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment that was developed to deal with the 2008 financial crisis. According to groups like The Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), seventy-one percent of school districts currently receive less state aid than they did in 2008-09 (ninety-three percent excluding building aid).

We are grateful for the funding increases included in the past two budgets, but they have not kept up with rising costs. This was not enough to prevent additional classroom cuts across the state. We know you understand the need for the Empire State to invest adequately in our children's future, and how important it is to improve schools and reduce the achievement gap that exists across this state, in rural communities, suburban areas, and cities large and small.

In the past five years, schools across New York State have been forced to make classroom cuts. Class sizes have soared, leaving students in overcrowded classrooms—sometimes in excess of 30 students in elementary classrooms. Concurrently, the quality of the curriculum has diminished, with cuts to: art, music, advanced placement courses, foreign languages, career and technical education, and more. Tutoring to help students who have fallen behind and summer school have both been reduced, as have seats for pre-K and Kindergarten. Student supports in the form of guidance counselors, social

workers, and librarians have all been cut back. If we continue to disinvest in our children and their schools, we will be sacrificing the economic future of our state and the well-being of our children and families.

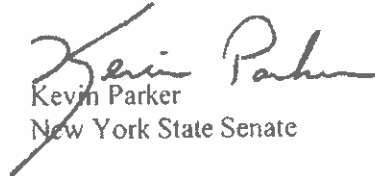
As you prepare your budget proposal, we respectfully request that you include a substantial increase in education funding. Our schools need \$1.9 billion in additional aid, distributed in an equitable formula, to overcome the cuts of prior years and prepare our students for the global economy. Like you, we support educational accountability, and we want to make sure that our schools have the resources they need to meet their goals.

We look forward to collaborating with you on the 2014-15 state budget, and to working together to ensure that the best interests of New York's students are fully met.

Respectfully yours,



Catherine Nolan
New York State Assembly



Kevin Parker
New York State Senate

Karim Camara
New York State Assembly

The following legislators join us in signing on to this letter:

Assemblymember Thomas Abinanti
Assemblymember Didi Barrett
Assemblymember Michael Benedetto
Assemblymember James Brennan
Assemblymember Anthony Brindisi
Assemblymember Harry Bronson
Assemblymember Kevin Cahill
Assemblymember Barbara Clark
Assemblymember William Colton
Assemblymember Marcos Crespo
Assemblymember Michael Cusick
Assemblymember Steven Cymbrowitz
Assemblymember Michael DenDekker
Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assemblymember Steve Englebright
Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
Assemblymember Philip Goldfeder
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried

Senator Joseph Addabbo
Senator Tony Avella
Senator Neil Breslin
Senator Martin Dilan
Senator Adriano Espaillat
Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson
Senator Brad Hoylman
Senator Timothy Kennedy
Senator Elizabeth Krueger
Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Senator Jose Peralta
Senator William Perkins
Senator Gustavo Rivera
Senator John Sampson
Senator James Sanders
Senator Jose Serrano
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk

Assemblymember Aileen Gunther
Assemblymember Carl Heastie
Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs
Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee
Assemblymember Michael Kearns
Assemblymember Ron Kim
Assemblymember Micah Kellner
Assemblymember Joseph Lentol
Assemblymember Barbara Lifton
Assemblymember Donna Lupardo
Assemblymember William Magnarelli
Assemblymember Margaret Markey
Assemblymember Shelley Mayer
Assemblymember John McDonald
Assemblymember Michael Miller
Assemblymember Joan Millman
Assemblymember Walter Mosley
Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell
Assemblymember Felix Ortiz
Assemblymember Steven Otis
Assemblymember Amy Paulin
Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes
Assemblymember Nick Perry
Assemblymember Philip Ramos
Assemblymember Samuel Roberts
Assemblymember Robert Rodriguez
Assemblymember Gabriela Rosa
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Assemblymember Nily Rozic
Assemblymember Addie Russell
Assemblymember William Scarborough
Assemblymember Michelle Schimel
Assemblymember Luis Sepulveda
Assemblymember Aravella Simotas
Assemblymember Frank Skartados
Assemblymember James Skoufis
Assemblymember Michaelle Solages
Assemblymember Phil Steck
Assemblymember Albert Stirpe
Assemblymember Robert Sweeney
Assemblymember Matthew Titone
Assemblymember Helene Weinstein
Assemblymember David Weprin

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8096

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NY 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2451
FAX: (518) 426-6846

EMAIL: HOYLMAN@NYSenate.GOV
WEBSITE: HOYLMAN.NYSenate.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:
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PARKS AND RECREATION
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
LIBRARIES

January 22, 2014

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Renovation of NY Public Library's Schwarzman Building

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I am writing in regard to the planned renovation of the New York Public Library's ("NYPL") Stephen A. Schwarzman Building ("Central Library"), located on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street, which is in my district. I commend your leadership as New York City Public Advocate in opposition to this project and urge you to take immediate action to ensure it does not move forward.

Like you, I am deeply concerned about several of the proposed changes, notably the proposal to displace the historic stacks, dramatically reducing the number of readily available research volumes and increasing the wait time for materials. As a result, the Central Library's function as one of the world's premier research facilities will be significantly diminished.

I am also staunchly opposed to the proposal to sell off the Mid-Manhattan Library and Science, Industry and Business Library branches and consolidate their contents within the Central Library in a space less than one-third their current combined size. If this plan proceeds, an additional two million Mid-Manhattan and SIBL patrons will be squeezed into the already crowded Central Library.

Opposition to the plan in the local community is widespread among academics, researchers and community members, many of whom are my constituents. Groups opposing the plan include labor union DC 37, the Historic Districts Council and

numerous community groups. In part this is due to the lack of public input and consultation during the development of the plan. Another reason is the plan's exorbitant cost, which continues to rise. In 2008, costs were projected to be \$250 million. Today, they are estimated to be over \$350 million.

I support your prior call for an independent, evaluative review of the financial risks associated with the current plan that considers alternate uses of funds to help preserve the NYPL's valuable collections in the Central Library and in the Mid-Manhattan Library as they stand. Further, I urge serious reconsideration of the cultural and educational value that would be lost if this project were to proceed as proposed, and ask that you consider redirecting the capital funds the Bloomberg administration allocated to this plan for more cost-effective projects that advance the NYPL's mission.

Time is of the essence. Currently, community groups are calling for a public, independent review process to begin, but the renovation plan continues to move forward rapidly.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. I look forward to your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Hoylman".

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, Historic Districts Council
Susan Bernofsky, Committee to Save the NYPL
Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, DC 37

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Prevent HIV Infection: Questions and Answers

In July 2012 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first use of an antiretroviral drug to prevent HIV infection. Truvada, a combination of two HIV medications, can now be used by persons who are HIV-negative to protect them from possible infection.

The following questions and answers are meant to educate consumers on PrEP and whether it is right for them.

What is Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)?

A prophylactic is a drug you take to prevent disease. When you take a drug to prevent HIV infection, it is called HIV prophylaxis.

With Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), you take an HIV medication immediately AFTER the exposure to HIV to prevent infection. With PrEP, if you are HIV-negative, you take Truvada BEFORE possible exposure to HIV to prevent infection.

Truvada is a combination of the drugs Emtriva and Viread. It was originally approved for treatment in 2004.

What does the new FDA approval of PrEP mean?

Recent research studies confirmed that Truvada safely and effectively prevented HIV infection among HIV-negative men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women who have sex with men. Both groups were considered to be at high risk of infection. Based on the research findings, the FDA approved the use of PrEP for these two groups.

Further research found that Truvada is also safe and effective at preventing HIV infection among heterosexual men and women. These include *serodiscordant* couples, where one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative. In July 2012, the FDA approved the use of PrEP for sexually active heterosexual men and women. The U.S. Public Health Service will soon issue complete guidelines on the use of PrEP. In the meantime, providers should rely on the CDC “interim guidance” for prescribing PrEP (see link below).

Why did the FDA approve an HIV drug for people who don’t have HIV?

HIV medications and better medical care have helped many HIV-positive people regain their health, so that fewer people are progressing to AIDS and dying. However, nearly 50,000 people in the U.S. still get infected with HIV each year. Because the number of new infections has stayed constant in recent years, public health officials are looking for new and different ways to prevent infection.

Using a preventive medication before exposure to a virus is not new. For example, people who travel to countries where malaria is a problem often take medications beforehand to protect them from being infected by mosquitoes.

What are the guidelines/requirements for providers to prescribe PrEP?

- You must be HIV-negative.
- You cannot have “flu-like” symptoms, which may indicate you have acute HIV phase, the earliest stage of infection.
- Practice other forms of risk-reduction: use condoms; get tested for HIV regularly; don’t share drug injection equipment; get risk-reduction counseling; and get screened for STDs and hepatitis B.
- Stick to your HIV medication schedule. Take all your meds on time, as prescribed. Very few participants in the PrEP clinical trials developed resistance to the medications, even if they became infected with HIV. The researchers concluded that, if HIV-negative patients are monitored closely, the benefits of PrEP outweighed the risks connected with drug resistance.

How will my healthcare provider decide whether PrEP is right for me?

This will depend on a number of factors:

If you are an MSM: Your healthcare provider must first confirm that you are HIV-negative and that you have no current (flu-like) symptoms of acute HIV. Your provider will also test you for hepatitis B infection, for STDs, and for kidney function.

Your provider has to conclude that you are at ongoing, high risk for HIV infection because of behaviors such as unprotected sex, needle sharing, or drug and alcohol use. Your provider will also consider how well you can stick with a PrEP medication schedule despite your risk behaviors.

If you are a heterosexual male or female: If you are a sexually active heterosexual adult who is HIV-negative, your provider can prescribe PrEP if you are at “very high risk” of getting HIV from penile-vaginal sex. This situation may occur if your partner is HIV-positive. Again, PrEP must be part of a larger effort to prevent HIV transmission. Your provider will talk to you about reducing your risk of infection, getting tested and treated for STDs, and taking your PrEP medications as prescribed.

Does PrEP have significant side effects?

The main side effects felt by the patients in the PrEP clinical trials were mild nausea and problems with kidney function. Everyone who takes PrEP should see their medical provider for kidney function tests every six months.

Is PrEP safe for pregnant or breastfeeding women?

Pregnant and breastfeeding women were not included in the PrEP research studies — so the safety and efficacy of Truvada for pregnant women and fetuses/infants has not been established. Women of child-bearing age should have a pregnancy test before beginning PrEP and at regular intervals while taking PrEP. If you are pregnant before starting PrEP or want to become pregnant while taking PrEP, talk with your healthcare provider about the risks and benefits.

The two drugs contained in Truvada have been used safely and effectively to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child — there was no harm to infants exposed to PrEP.

How much does PrEP cost? Is it covered by insurance?

Truvada, the PrEP drug, costs between \$8,000 and \$14,000 per year. You will also have to figure in the cost of four medical check-ups annually and possible lab tests. Check with your medical insurer to see if PrEP is covered.

Further Reading

CDC Interim Guidance for using PrEP with MSM:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6003a1.htm.

CDC Interim Guidance for using PrEP with heterosexuals:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6131a2.htm.

Fact sheet summarizing use of PrEP for both MSM and heterosexuals:
www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/2012/PrEP-FactSheet-080912-508.pdf.

Baeten JM, Donnell D, Ndase P, et al. Antiretroviral prophylaxis for HIV prevention in heterosexual men and women. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;367:399–410.
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Thigpen MC, Kebaabetswe PM, Paxton LA, et al. Antiretroviral preexposure prophylaxis for heterosexual HIV transmission in Botswana. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;367:423–34.
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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22784040>.

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Lampe MA, Smith DK, Anderson GJE, Edwards AE, Nesheim SR. Achieving safe conception in HIV-discordant couples: the potential role of oral preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the United States. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2011;204:488. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21457911>.

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE (212) 633-8052
FAX (212) 633-8096

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE (518) 455-2451
FAX (518) 426-6846

E-MAIL: HOYLMAN@NYSENATE.GOV
WEBSITE: HOYLMAN.NYSENATE.GOV



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CORRECTION
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS & RECREATION
JUDICIARY

January 28, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

I appreciate the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC) acknowledgement of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) history in recent historic district designation reports, including the South Village Historic District and East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. I am writing to ask LPC to begin formally recognizing sites of significance to the LGBT movement within previously designated New York City Historic Districts.

The Stonewall Inn at 52 Christopher Street and Julius' Bar at 159 West 10th Street, both within the Greenwich Village Historic District, and the Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse at 99 Wooster Street, within the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District, are just a few such sites, which carry enormous historical significance for the LGBT community and its struggle for equality. Yet they are neither individual landmarks nor referenced for their role in LGBT history in their districts' designation reports. Amending existing designation reports to reflect places of significance to the LGBT movement would go a long way toward preserving this chapter of civil rights history, as would consideration of designating these and other sites as individual landmarks based upon their place in LGBT history.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and the LPC's commitment to preserving our city's heritage. Should you have any questions or to follow up, please contact me at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" being more prominent than the last name "Hoylman".

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation



Affordable Health Insurance

Opportunities & Responsibilities:

Navigating the Affordable Care Act

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

10:00am — 3:00pm

26 Federal Plaza,
6th Floor Conference Center, New York, NY
(Enter on Duane Street, between Broadway & Lafayette)

| RSVP to: brownal@hra.nyc.gov |

HEALTH CARE

SHOP & COMPARE

GROUP PLANS

COST SHARING

Make Health Reform Work
for Your Company
Employees, Family & Individuals

- ➔ On Site Navigators: *Community Service Society, Brooklyn Alliance, Public Health Solutions, Seedco until 3pm*
- ➔ Information Tables
- ➔ Personal & Private
- ➔ Guidance & Registration
- ➔ Topic Presentations
(10:30 am – 3:00 pm)

There Is Still Time to Sign-up for Health Insurance in 2014!

Presenters Include Representatives from

New York State of Health, the Official
Health Plan Marketplace

NYC  **HEALTH
INSURANCE
LINK**
HRA's Office of Citywide Insurance Access

SBA
U.S. Small Business Administration
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Community Tax Aid, Inc.

Box 1040, Cathedral Station, New York, New York 10025

On the Web: www.communitytaxaidnyc.org

Email: generalinfo@communitytaxaidnyc.org

Phone: 1-646-200-5080

Jeffrey S. Gold, CPA
Founder
1942 - 2013

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January 2014

TO: COMMUNITY LEADERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

RE: FREE TAX PREPARATION BY EXPERIENCED TAX PREPARERS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

We need your help to get the word out to your community.

Community Tax Aid, Inc. (CTA) provides free tax preparation for 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 for New York City's individuals with income up to \$25,000 and for everyone else with income up to \$50,000. Many of these individuals and families face special tax problems and do not receive the refunds they deserve unless they file.

As one example, the New York City School Tax Credit is available to every NYC resident who is not a dependent on someone else's return. The refund is \$125 for a married couple filing a joint return or a qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child, or it is \$63 for everyone else. This refund is also available to part-year residents (prorated). SO EVERYONE SHOULD FILE A RETURN, if not a dependent.

CTA has offered this service since 1970. Our organization is an all volunteer program utilizing fully trained professionals, including CPAs and attorneys.

Please help by including an announcement in your community newsletters and by posting it on area bulletin boards from January through April.

For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of our two page flyer giving requirements and the places and times where we are available. Please feel free to duplicate.

In addition we have enclosed a press release in both English and Spanish that explains our services.

Thank you for your assistance.

Emil Gomez, CPA
Publicity Chairman