

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN

(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



December 2013

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you are enjoying the holiday season. Below is my final community update of 2013, including a **reminder about the Basic STAR tax exemption registration deadline** for coop and condo owners and details about a **second free mammography event I'm hosting on Friday, January 10** due to popular demand for the event I hosted earlier this month.

Also, as you may recall from an earlier update, State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli recently [announced](#) he will be conducting an audit of the State Hate Crimes Law, based on a [recommendation](#) from my State Senate report and forum on the topic this summer. **On December 10, I appeared on *Capital Tonight* to discuss the audit. If you're a Time Warner Cable subscriber, you can watch the interview [here](#).**

As 2013 comes to a close, I extend a heartfelt thanks for your support, which made a tremendous difference in my first year in the State Senate. Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy and healthy New Year!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

More Free Mammogram Appointments Available on January 10

Due to the tremendous response to the free mammography event I hosted earlier this month, a second date has been added on Friday, January 10, 2014 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Project Renewal's Scan Van will once again be at First Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets to provide free mammograms by appointment to women 40 and over who haven't had a scan within a year. According to the [National Cancer Institute](#), women aged 40 and over should have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years. Space is limited, so please call (800) 564-6868 to make your appointment. For more information, please see the flyer [here](#).

Coop/Condo Owners: You Must Register to Receive STAR Tax Exemption

Don't forget that new regulations require all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR property tax exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department by December 31, 2013 in order to continue to receive the exemption in 2014 and future years. This is a one-time registration requirement. The State Tax Department will confirm homeowners' eligibility in future years based on the information provided. **If you are a coop or condo owner and have not yet registered, please visit the NYS Tax Department online [here](#) or call 518-457-2036.**

You may be interested to know that on December 11, I wrote to the Commissioner of the NYS Tax Department and urged him to extend the deadline by which homeowners must register for the Basic STAR exemption, and to continue outreach efforts to ensure that as many eligible households as possible receive the property tax relief to which they are entitled. The Tax Department subsequently announced its intention to issue a direct mailing in January to 2013 Basic STAR exemption recipients who have not registered, advising them that they need to do so if they believe they are eligible to continue receiving the exemption. Still, I encourage you not to wait and to register now.

Concerns About Advertising Claims for Some Fisher-Price Products

Following dubious claims about the educational and developmental benefits of New York-based [Fisher-Price's Apptivity products](#), which encourage passive computer screen use by infants and toddlers, I wrote to parent company Mattel calling on them to review the product line. As the ranking member of the New York State Senate Consumer Protection Committee (and the parent of a three-year-old), I am concerned that these products contravene [guidelines](#) established by the American Academy of Pediatrics stating that infants and children under age two years should not be exposed to screen devices. For more information and to read my letter, please click [here](#).

SantaCon's Bad Behavior

Saturday, December 14 was the annual event known as "SantaCon." In response to efforts I spearheaded with other local elected officials, SantaCon for the first time shared its routes in advance with the New York City Police Department and local community boards. As a result, the NYPD was able to [plan accordingly and significantly increase its presence](#) in the affected neighborhoods. While the number of officers on the street seems to have helped curtail quality of life violations, I am aware of many troubling instances of drunken behavior and disorderly conduct by participants. I will be working with community boards, local precincts, the State Liquor Authority and colleagues in government to create further recommendations to address these issues in the future.

Standing with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Marking the one-year anniversary of the tragic Newtown shooting, I [stood](#) with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence on the steps of City Hall to honor the victims and demand that Congress take action on comprehensive federal gun legislation. I am proud that at the beginning of this year, New York State passed Governor Cuomo's groundbreaking gun reform legislation (the *NY SAFE Act*), but our work is far from over at every level of government to toughen gun laws. To take just one example, a recent [report](#) released by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence revealed that 90% of guns recovered in crimes in New York City come from other states with weak gun laws.

Honored to Receive MFY's Champion of Justice Award

Earlier this month, I was honored to receive [MFY Legal Services'](#) Champion of Justice Award. MFY provides free and low-cost legal services to those in need and its programs reach individuals and families facing crises on a number of fundamental issues, such as housing, government benefits, employment, health care, consumer debt, and family law. I am proud of my strong partnership with MFY, which includes helping establish a [tenant referral clinic](#), and am deeply appreciative of all the important work the organization does.

Demanding Answers Regarding the Proposed East 25th Street Sanitation Garage

On December 11, I joined City Councilmember Dan Garodnick and State Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh in writing to the New York City Department of Sanitation and Deputy Mayor for Operations Caswell Holloway to demand answers to outstanding questions regarding the proposed East 25th Street Sanitation Garage, including the future use of the entire site, as well as traffic, safety and air quality concerns. Please see our letter [here](#).

Opposing Unreasonable Rent Increases for Rent-Controlled Tenants

On November 22, I submitted testimony to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) regarding the preliminary Standard Adjustment Factor for the 2014/2015 Maximum Base Rent (MBR) Cycle, which establishes rent increases for approximately 38,000 rent controlled tenants in New York City, including many in our district. I noted that due to the escalating costs of housing, and the year-after-year increases in landlord profits, there should be a rent freeze.

Furthermore, I urged DHCR to fully enforce the provision in the law requiring landlords to certify that 90% of the MBR increase will be put back into the operating and maintenance cost of their buildings by inspecting the books of all landlords seeking increases and denying increases to those that do not meet this burden. Please see my testimony [here](#).

Fast Food Forward National Day of Action

On December 5, I was proud to stand in solidarity with fast food workers at the McDonald's on Broadway and 51st Street and thousands of their fellow workers at chains in 100 cities across the country, who staged walkouts to protest decades of exploitation and demand fair wages. Fair pay and rights in the workplace are moral imperatives but sadly, the managers at this McDonald's, located in our Senate District, and at fast food outlets across the country, have threatened employees with immediate termination for their participation in protest events in support of a livable wage and the right to organize. I will continue to support this important [effort](#).

Victories for the South Village Historic District

On December 17, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) [voted to landmark](#) the second phase of the South Village Historic District (SVHD). As I noted in my testimony to the LPC, the district is undeniably worthy of this important designation, which will help to protect the area's largely-intact, historic architectural landscape and preserve its cultural character. Please see my statement on this important victory [here](#). Preservation groups -- namely the [Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation](#) -- community organizations, Community Board 2 and my colleagues in government deserve credit for this achievement.

Additionally, earlier this month, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recommended the nomination of the entire SVHD to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The SVHD will soon be listed on the State Register of Historic Places, and the recommendation paves the way for listing in the National Register as well. You can find my letter to SHPO supporting the nomination [here](#).

Fracking Forum on Jan. 16: NY vs. PA

On Thursday, January 16, I will co-sponsor a forum hosted by the Ethical Culture Society on the differences between New York's and Pennsylvania's shale deposits and their effects on the natural gas extraction process known as hydrofracking. The forum will be held from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at 2 West 64th Street (at Central Park West). Please click [here](#) for more information.

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