

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN
(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



March 2014

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update on some of my recent activities, plus a reminder about the March 31st deadline to enroll in the Affordable Care Act, details about my Earth Day Open House on Tuesday, April 22, and information about Spring eWaste recycling events in our district. Please let me know if you have any questions about these issues or how I can be helpful.

All best,

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

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Budget Update

On March 13, I voted against the one-house budget resolution proposed by the Senate majority coalition. Without being shown any actual budget bills, we were asked to vote in the middle of the night on a "wishlist" of the majority coalition's priorities, which included defunding New York's health benefit exchange, gutting the Moreland Commission on Public Corruption, and even cutting taxes on private jets and limousines. As we quickly approach the April 1 budget deadline, I continue to work with my colleagues to support the inclusion in the final budget of issues of importance to the Senate Democratic Conference, including campaign finance reform, dedicated funding for Universal Pre-K, comprehensive out-of-network health insurance coverage, and a 30% of income rent cap for low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS. It is anticipated that we will vote on the final budget on Monday, March 31.

My Bill to Deter Smartphone Thefts and Protect Data

On March 7, I announced the introduction of the Smartphone and Tablet Security Act ([S.6748](#)) to require all smartphones, tablets and similar devices sold in New York State to be equipped with a "kill switch" to allow users to protect their information by rendering their lost or stolen devices permanently inoperable.

Enabling New Yorkers to remotely disable their devices the moment they realize they've been robbed will protect consumers' personal data and discourage smartphone thefts. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman

has been [a leader](#) in holding smartphone and tablet manufacturers accountable, and my bill is modeled after legislation he and Congressman José Serrano [spearheaded at the federal level](#). New York should not wait for the federal bill to move through the partisan gridlock in Washington, however. We should be a leader in protecting consumers by enacting the Smartphone and Tablet Security Act. Please see a recent *New York Daily News* story on my legislation [here](#).

Join Me for an Earth Day Open House on April 22

On Tuesday, April 22, I'll be celebrating Earth Day with an open house at my office from 4:00-6:00 PM. My staff and I will be on hand to talk about what's going on in the district or any other issues that are on your mind, and we'll be serving up light refreshments. We'll also be collecting your used batteries for recycling, and conducting other activities and giveaways. Please plan to join me for this event at my District Office, located at 322 8th Avenue (at the corner of 26th Street), Suite 1700. I hope you can drop by. For more information or to RSVP please email me at hoylman@nysenate.gov or call me at [212-633-8052](tel:212-633-8052).

State Senate's Disheartening Failure to Pass the DREAM Act

On March 17, I was proud to vote in favor of the NYS DREAM Act, which would grant undocumented students in New York access to state financial aid. Liberalizing our draconian immigration laws is the key to the future of our state's and nation's economy. Unfortunately, the DREAM Act failed, 30-29, with unanimous Republican opposition. You can watch my remarks in support of the bill [here](#).

Final Days to Enroll in the Affordable Care Act - Deadline this Monday, March 31

Time is running out to enroll in New York State of Health, our state's health insurance marketplace. Individuals, business owners and employees have until Monday, March 31, 2014, to enroll for insurance for this year. If you don't enroll now, you may not be able to obtain coverage until 2015. You can find more information on the enrollment process and whether financial assistance is available to you when buying coverage through the marketplace by visiting <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov> or calling [855-355-5777](tel:855-355-5777). If you're having difficulty with enrolling, please call my office at [212-633-8052](tel:212-633-8052) and we will connect you with an expert navigator, who can help you understand your coverage options and enroll in a plan.

NYS Plan to End AIDS

I recently spearheaded a letter to Governor Cuomo, signed by 19 of my Senate colleagues, supporting a New York State Plan to End AIDS. We called for an additional \$10 million appropriation for the New York State AIDS Institute and the appointment of a gubernatorial task force to develop a long-term strategy for ending the AIDS epidemic in our state. Although there is still no cure for AIDS, scientific advances and widespread health care coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act have put an end to the epidemic within reach. Please see our letter [here](#).

I'm pleased that on March 19, New York State Health Commissioner Nirav Shah announced the state has achieved a major step toward implementing such a plan by successfully negotiating with Gilead, the leading maker of antiretroviral drugs for HIV, to obtain substantial price concessions. This will make it possible to greatly expand the number of HIV-positive New Yorkers successfully being treated, and broaden access to pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent new infections. Please see [here](#) a letter I sent to Gilead's Chairman and CEO last month urging the company to meet the price reductions sought by the state.



Save the Union Square Pavilion

On Sunday, March 9, I joined Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Borough President Gale Brewer, other elected colleagues and community members in calling on Mayor de Blasio to cancel the city's concession agreement for a high-end restaurant in Union Square Park's pavilion. With dozens of places to eat within blocks of Union Square, it's wrong and shortsighted to place yet another dining establishment in the park. Moreover, it violates the Public Trust Doctrine, which provides that once land has been acquired for use as a municipal park, it cannot be used for private ventures without approval from the State Legislature. I hope that the city will void this contract and restore the pavilion as part of a unified and non-commercial public space. To read more about the rally, please click [here](#).

Seeking Information on Anti-Gay Attack at West 4th Street Station

On the morning of March 7, I was joined by Council Member Corey Johnson in distributing fliers outside the West 4th Street subway station seeking information about an alleged anti-gay hate crime that took place on the platform earlier that week. In the incident, the perpetrator, who is still at large, approached two men and asked them if they were gay. When they ignored the question, the man made a derogatory statement and punched one of the men in his face, breaking his nose and fracturing his orbital bone. This instance only reinforces the need for an audit of the State Hate Crimes Law, which New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is currently conducting in response to a [report](#) I released on the topic last year. Please click [here](#) to see the flier, which includes details of the attack and a police sketch of the perpetrator. If you have any information regarding the suspect or the attack, please call Crime Stoppers at [800-577-8477](tel:800-577-8477). A \$2,000 reward is available, and all callers will remain anonymous.



My Legislation to Protect our Volunteer Auxiliary Police Officers

Joined by local community leaders, on the seventh anniversary of the fatal March 14, 2007 shooting of two on-duty New York Police Department auxiliary officers, I introduced the Auxiliary Police Officers Yevgeniy Marshalik and Nicholas Pekearo Memorial Act ([S.6822](#)). This bill mandates that those who kill an on-duty auxiliary police officer are charged with the same offense as those who kill a police or peace

officer. By increasing the penalty for killing an auxiliary officer in the line of duty, the legislation aims to help protect thousands of auxiliary police officers across New York. These men and women, who volunteer to assist in crime deterrence, often put themselves in the same danger as other officers of the law and should receive the same protection. Please find my press release [here](#).

Community Must Have Input on Moynihan Station Air Rights Sale

On March 4, I joined Congressman Jerry Nadler, Senator Adriano Espaillat, Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and Council Member Corey 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 [here](#).

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 50th 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 18th 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.

Support for a Contextual Rezoning in the South Village

Recently, Senator Daniel Squadron and I wrote to City Planning Commission (CPC) Chair Carl Weisbrod to urge the CPC to consider a contextual rezoning proposal for the South Village, which was recently presented by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and supported by Community Board 2. The current zoning in the area roughly bounded by West 4th Street/Washington Square South to the North, Thompson Street/LaGuardia Place to the East, Canal Street to the South and Avenue of the Americas to the West, was established in 1961, when New York was a very different city. The proposed rezoning would help ensure that future development in the area is in line with the current needs of the community and would eliminate an often exploited bonus for developers who include "community facilities" in their projects. Please see our letter [here](#).

Return of M8 Route Weekend Bus Service

Earlier this month I was informed by MTA New York City Transit (NYCT) that weekend service on the M8 bus line will finally be restored starting Sunday, April 6, nearly four years after being eliminated due to budget cuts. The line, which connects the East and West Villages via 8th and 9th Streets, is a vital service for seniors, students and many of our other neighbors. This change should be reflected on NYCT's [website](#) on Friday, April 4. Along with other local elected officials, Community Board 2 and community leaders, I have long called on NYCT to restore full service on the M8 line. While I continue to

urge NYCT to return overnight service to the M8 line as well, the restoration of weekend service is a positive step forward and I thank NYCT for making this change.

Spring eWaste Recycling Days in Our Senate District

Just in time for spring cleaning, the Lower East Side Ecology Center is hosting a series of electronic recycling days in and around our Senate District. Unclutter your home and office by bringing your unwanted electronics to one of the following eWaste recycling events, which will take place from 10 am to 4pm, rain or shine:

- Greenwich Village: Saturday, April 5, 6th Avenue between Bleecker & Houston Streets
- Upper West Side: Sunday, April 13, Amsterdam Avenue between West 74th & West 75th Streets
- Chelsea: Saturday, April 26, Tekserve, 119 West 23rd Street between 6th & 7th Avenues
- Hell's Kitchen: Saturday May 3, West 43rd Street between 9th & 10th Avenues
- Kips Bay: Saturday, May 17, East 33rd Street at 2nd Avenue (SW corner)

Click [here](#) to find out what types of electronics you can bring and answers to other frequently asked questions. For more information please contact www.lesecologycenter.org or call [212-477-4022](tel:212-477-4022).

NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program is Accepting Applications

The New York City Department of Youth and 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. For more information or to submit an application, please visit www.nyc.gov/dycd or call DYCD Youth Connect at [800-246-4646](tel:800-246-4646).

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