

NEWS FROM

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



May 2014

Dear Neighbor:

I'm writing with my monthly update on issues in Albany and across our Senate District. We're entering June, the final month of the Legislative Session and also LGBT Pride Month. I hope you'll join me on Sunday, June 29th in the annual LGBT Pride March, which kicks off at noon on 36th Street and Fifth Avenue. Please email me at hoylman@nysenate.gov if you'd to join my contingent. As always, let me know if you have any questions about issues or if there are ways I can be helpful.

All best,

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

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District



Mourning the Loss of Former State Senator Catherine Abate

On May 17, former State Senator Catherine Abate, whose Senate seat I now have the

honor of holding, passed away after a long battle with uterine cancer. Greenwich Village, the city and the state have lost one of our most dedicated, talented and thoughtful public servants. During her diverse and far-reaching public service career, she served at nearly every level of New York politics and government, including grassroots organizing, City Hall and Albany. Catherine's commitment extended to her friendship and mentoring of numerous government, nonprofit and labor sector leaders who followed her, including me.

Most recently, Catherine made significant and lasting contributions in the area of public health. During her leadership at Community Healthcare Network, Catherine significantly expanded healthcare and social services programs for the underserved and developed innovative strategies for vulnerable segments of the LGBT population, including transgender people and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Catherine set a high bar for public service that the rest of us should strive to match and she will be sadly missed.

Compassionate Care Act Passes Senate Health Committee

On May 20, The Compassionate Care Act, which would legalize the use of medical marijuana for New Yorkers diagnosed with one of 20 serious, debilitating, and life-threatening chronic illnesses, passed the New York Senate Health Committee. I joined eight of my fellow committee members in voting for this bill to alleviate suffering for severely ill New Yorkers and I hope to be able to vote for it again on the Senate floor. The Compassionate Care Act will now move to the Senate Finance Committee. If it passes that committee it could be brought to the floor for a full vote before the June 19 end of the 2014 legislative session. Please see the *Daily News* story on the Health Committee vote [here](#).

Keynote at the Pride Agenda's Annual Spring Dinner

On May 17, I had the honor of giving the keynote address at the Empire State Pride Agenda's annual Spring Dinner in Rochester. In addition to applauding the many victories our community has won in great part due to the Pride Agenda's leadership, I discussed GENDA, conversion therapy, surrogacy and Albany ethics. You can see a video of my remarks [here](#).

Keep Hydrofracking Waste Out of New York

I recently joined colleagues in the State Senate Democratic Conference in urging passage of four pieces of legislation ([S.5123-A](#), [S.3333-A](#), [S.3433](#) and [S.5412](#)) aimed at protecting New York State from hydrofracking waste products. While there remains a moratorium on hydrofracking in New York, transportation and disposal of byproducts of the practice are currently legal and taking place within New York's borders. Our package of bills would prohibit interstate transportation of any waste product derived from hydrofracking. I continue to support a full ban on hydrofracking in New York, and for the same reason I oppose allowing other states to dump or transport their waste in

our state: fracking and its waste has a tremendous negative impact on our health and environment. This package of bills will safeguard New York by keeping hydrofracking and its waste products from crossing our state lines. I hope the State Senate moves these bills quickly for a vote.



Honoring New York State “Woman of Distinction” Marisa Redanty

Each year, the New York State Senate honors a select group of “Women of Distinction” – women from across New York State who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of others, enriching their communities and strengthening our state. This year, I had the honor of naming Marisa Redanty, President Emeritus of the Manhattan Plaza Tenants Association, who in addition to being a staunch advocate for tenants, is a talented actress, Screen Actors Guild member, and a passionate Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood activist. On May 13, she traveled to Albany to take part in an official celebration at which she and other extraordinary women from across our state were recognized for their invaluable contributions to their communities. You can see the essay I submitted about Marisa for both the event program and a poster displayed in a special exhibit at the Legislative Office Building [here](#).

Push for Passage of Entire Women’s Equality Act

On May 20, I joined advocates and members of the Senate Democratic Conference to urge the passage of the entire, ten-point Women’s Equality Act, which comprehensively addresses the disparities that exist for women in New York State. Despite being passed twice in the State Assembly, the full Women’s Equality Act has not even been brought before the Senate for a vote. As noted above, earlier this month, the Senate honored extraordinary women from across the state at its annual “Women of Distinction” ceremony, yet New York’s women continue to face gender-based discrimination and inequality. It’s up to the State Senate leadership to get serious about gender equity and bring the full Women’s Equality Act – including the crucial tenth provision that would codify the reproductive health protections won by women more than 40 years ago in *Roe v. Wade* – to the Senate floor.



Walter Mankoff Inducted into New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame

On May 20, the New York State Senate held its annual Veterans' Hall of Fame ceremony to honor and recognize outstanding veterans from each Senate District who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life. This year I selected Army veteran Walter Mankoff, who has made tremendous contributions to his community as a long-time member and leader of Manhattan Community Board 4, the Penn South board of directors, and the Penn South Social Services board. Please see the press release announcing Walter's induction to the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame [here](#).

My Push to Ban the Sale of Powdered Alcohol in New York State

On May 5, I introduced [S.7195](#), a bill to ban the sale of powdered alcohol products in New York State. The product, currently branded as "Palcohol," presents a unique set of health dangers and is awaiting federal approval, but I believe we can and should act now in New York State to prohibit the sale of this and similar irresponsible products. My bill would fine first time offenders up to \$5,000 and repeat offenses could result in a misdemeanor and a fine of up to \$10,000. It would also prohibit anyone under 21 from possessing powdered alcohol. Please click [here](#) to see a *Daily News* story about my bill.

CW Capital's Announcement that it Will Foreclose on ST-PCV Debt

On May 13, CW Capital, which controls Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (ST-PCV), announced that it will foreclose on the complex's debt, [raising the likelihood that it will sell the property](#). We can't make the same mistake as last time and allow real estate speculators to make an over-leveraged gamble on the backs of ST-PCV residents. Fortunately, this go round we have a powerful and committed new ally in Mayor de Blasio, who obviously understands the importance of preserving affordable housing in New York City. I joined Council Member Dan Garodnick, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Borough President Gale Brewer and Assembly Member Brian Kavanaugh in writing to Mayor de Blasio and seeking his administration's engagement in protecting the city's crown jewel of middle class housing.



Lower East Side Protest Against Notorious Landlord

On May 3, I joined the Stop Croman Coalition, GOLES, the Cooper Square Committee, and other tenant advocates at a rally in Tompkins Square Park protesting the terrible treatment of tenants by notorious landlord Steven Croman of 9300 Realty. I have been helping numerous constituents living in Croman buildings to fight the landlord's abusive tactics designed to force them out of their rent-regulated apartments.

Pier 40 Air Rights Transfer Must Go Through ULURP

On May 16, my colleagues in government and I were [shocked to learn](#) that the State and the Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) had secretly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last December with Atlas Capital Group, which co-owns the St. John's Building at 550 Washington Street. The MOU was apparently signed in anticipation of the transfer of air rights through a General Project Plan (GPP) from Pier 40 in the Hudson River Park to the St. John's site, which is directly across the West Side Highway, without going through New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

Two weeks earlier, concerned that such a plan may have been in the works, my colleagues and I wrote to Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio jointly opposing the use of a GPP to transfer air rights from Hudson River Park. Please see our letter [here](#).

I am pleased that Mayor de Blasio has heeded our call and is insisting that this proposed transfer of air rights must utilize ULURP instead of a GPP. This is welcome news for local control over our land use decisions, which is the hallmark of ULURP. As [I told *The New York Times*](#), ULURP is the only way to ensure robust community input, which is necessary for the success of this project. A GPP, on the other hand, would be an end run around the local zoning process and deny the public the opportunity to weigh in sufficiently.

Hailing New York Public Library's Decision to End Renovation Plans

The New York Public Library is one of the crown jewels of our city and I'm extremely pleased its leadership listened to the public and decided to [shelve their Central Library](#)

[Plan](#). Earlier this year I wrote to Mayor de Blasio to commend his opposition to the plan and urge him to take action to ensure the plan did not move forward. This new course keeps intact the research mission of the Central Library and allows resources to be devoted to the renovation of the Mid-Manhattan branch, which at 1.5 million visitors a year is the most popular of the circulating branches. I'm also glad that the historic stacks at 42nd Street will be preserved. I'm grateful to Mayor de Blasio, Borough President Brewer and the hundreds of scholars, historic preservationists, and everyday users who made their voices heard on this issue over the last several years. Indeed, patience and fortitude have won the day.

Welcoming Broadway Arterial Slow Zone

On May 1, the New York City Department of Transportation announced that Broadway between Columbus Circle and West 220th Street will be the City's next arterial slow zone, which means the speed limit will be reduced to 25 miles per hour and will be accompanied by improved signal timing, distinctive signage and increased enforcement. I applaud the de Blasio administration for bringing this much needed slow zone to Upper Broadway, which is one of the most dangerous roadways in my district. This and other slow zones being established across the city, along with the legislation recently passed by the State Senate to authorize 120 additional speed cameras in school zones, brings us a step closer to making the Mayor's Vision Zero plan to eliminate traffic fatalities a reality for New Yorkers.

A New Public School for the Upper West Side

The NYC Department of Education's (DOE) announcement that in September 2015, Beacon High School will be transformed into a brand new middle school and high school to serve the Upper West Side's growing 6th through 12th grade population is a tremendous victory for our community. It is a tribute to the leadership and advocacy of District 3 Community Education Council's co-Presidents Joe Fiordaliso and Theresa Hammonds and Community Board 7, its Chair Elizabeth Caputo, former Chair Mark Diller, and its Beacon School Working Group, that the DOE heard our community's concerns and honored our request. I'd also like to thank my colleagues, including Congressman Jerry Nadler, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Borough President Gale Brewer, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, State Senator Adriano Espaillat, and Council Members Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine, for helping to make this new school a reality. I will continue to work with the DOE, colleagues in government, and community stakeholders to ensure our new school meets its targets and fulfills its promise.

Co-Sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training June 5th

I'm co-sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training on Thursday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m. at P.S. 41, 116 West 11th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues). Through the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, approximately 100,000 New Yorkers will be provided with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Each household that participates will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes a plastic drop cloth, light stick, regular

flashlight, first aid kit, and more. All participants must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov or by calling Governor Cuomo's Special Assistant for Community Affairs, Erik Bottcher, at 212-681-4605.

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