

State Senator Daniel Squadron's Community Update

2016



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DANIEL SQUADRON**

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MEMBER
CODES
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FINANCE
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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Friend,

In May, I hosted my Eighth Annual Community Convention. Hundreds of community members attended to discuss issues such as affordability, streets and transportation, and parks and open space. Hearing directly from you provides my office with valuable feedback as we prepare for the next legislative session and work on issues throughout the district.

Each fall, in a series of town hall discussions, I update the community on the progress we have made, and what has been happening in the district since the Convention. This update includes a report on many of the issues brought to my attention during the Community Convention.

As an elected official, working towards the issues you care about is one of the most important parts of my job, and I deeply appreciate your engagement.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend a Town Hall or the Community Convention, or took the time to reach out to my office this year. If you have additional questions, comments, or concerns, please call my office at 212-298-5565 or 718-875-1517, or email at squadron@nysenate.gov.

Thank you,

Daniel Squadron
New York State Senator
26th District

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Querido amigo,

En mayo, celebré mi Octava Convención Anual de la Comunidad. Cientos de miembros de la comunidad asistieron para discutir temas como la asequibilidad, calles y transporte, parques y espacios abiertos. Escuchar directamente de usted provee a mi oficina información valiosa a medida que nos preparamos para la próxima sesión legislativa y trabajamos en asuntos en todo el distrito.

Cada otoño, en una serie de discusiones en foros públicos, pongo al día a la comunidad sobre el progreso que hemos hecho, y lo que ha estado sucediendo en el distrito desde la Convención. Esta actualización incluye un informe sobre muchas de las cuestiones que me han sido presentadas durante la Convención Comunitaria.

Como funcionario electo, trabajar en los asuntos que le preocupan a usted es una de los deberes más importantes de mi trabajo, y aprecio profundamente su compromiso.

Gracias a todos los que pudieron asistir a un foro público o a la Convención Comunitaria, o que tomaron el tiempo para contactar a mi oficina este año. Si tiene preguntas, comentarios o inquietudes adicionales, llame a mi oficina al [212-298-5565](tel:212-298-5565) o al [718-875-1517](tel:718-875-1517), o escriba a squadron@nysenate.gov.

Gracias,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Squadron', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Squadron
Senador del Estado de Nueva York
Distrito 26

親愛的朋友，

在今年五月我舉辦了一年一度的第八屆社區大會。數百名社區人士出席了這次大會並踴躍發言討論各項問題；例如：可負擔住屋計劃及改善生活品質、街道和交通問題、公園和開放空間的使用等。直接聆聽你提出的寶貴意見和回應有助我們辦事處在預備下一次社區內的立法工作。

每年秋季。在舉辦一連串的理民大會中；我會更新在社區大會中各項討論議題的跟進工作。包括有那些情況已得到改善。這份最新的工作匯報都是來自社區大會中大家所熱切討論和我所關心的問題。

作為一位民選議員。解決你們所關心的問題是我工作中的首要任務。我非常感謝你們提出的實質意見。多謝每位參與社區大會和里民大會的朋友。同時多謝大眾市民花出你寶貴時間來到我們辦事處分擔你的問題。如你有其他意見或關心事項。請致電 [212-298-5565](tel:212-298-5565) 或 [718-875-1517](tel:718-875-1517) 或中文熱線 [917-254-3138](tel:917-254-3138) 查詢。或電郵 (email): squadron@nysenate.gov 便可。

感謝你的支持！

友好的，



史葛靜
第26選區參議員

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Streets and Transportation.....	6
Affordable Housing and Tenants' Rights.....	7
Zoning, Neighborhood Preservation, and Resiliency.....	8
Section 8 and Public Housing.....	9
Neighborhood Quality of Life.....	10
Education.....	11
Parks, Open Space, and the Environment.....	12
Open Government: Campaign Finance and Ethics.....	13
Health Care, Senior Citizens, and Accessibility.....	14
Small Business, Economic Development, and Innovation.....	15
Civil Rights, Economic, and Social Justice.....	16
Arts and Culture.....	17
Neighborhood Quality of Life: A Chinese Language Conversation.....	18

Streets and Transportation

The Streets and Transportation group was moderated by Patrick Kennell, and focused on improving the transportation network to make it easier for New Yorkers to get around.

Issues Raised:

- Improve bus service throughout the district
- Invest in transportation infrastructure
- Enhance street safety



Advocating for improved bus service with the Bus Turnaround Campaign

What We've Done:

- Spearheaded a campaign that won the support of 32 elected officials, to urge the creation of a collaborative interagency working group to mitigate the impact of repairs on the L line, and wrote a *Daily News* OpEd with a proposal to get Albany to help.
- Organized to oppose the MTA proposal to cut local F train service, and continue to work with the Don't Cut the Local F coalition to stop the cuts.
- Won reduced fares for seniors and people with disabilities on ferry service.
- Continued the push for Full Line Reviews throughout the city to improve subways.
- Successfully supported a fully funded MTA Capital Plan to keep buses and subways running.
- Pushed for better enforcement of my law to crackdown on illegal inter-city buses that increase congestion and create quality of life problems in the community.
- Successfully fought to improve our neighborhood transportation network:
 - Brought an innovative, publicly-designed art installation to the South Street median, with NYCDOT, Hester Street Collaborative, and the community.
 - Advocated for school crossing guards and traffic safety agents for MS 8 in Brooklyn, and numerous Lower Manhattan elementary schools, with colleagues.
 - Delivered a traffic signal at the intersection of Columbia and Carroll Streets in Brooklyn, along with Councilmember Lander.
 - Secured new street safety measures on Clinton Street between East Broadway and Grand, with NYCDOT, CB3, and the Seward Park Co-Op.
 - Extended Division Street sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety near Confucius Plaza, along with efforts to help beautify the area.
 - Received a commitment from DOT to repave the cracked sidewalks around LaGuardia Houses this year.
- Called for a better bus system, along with the Bus Turnaround Campaign, to advocate for improved service and routes, with Riders Alliance and Transit Center.

Affordable Housing and Tenants' Rights

The Affordable Housing and Tenants' Rights group was moderated by Ellen Davidson, and focused on protecting affordable housing in New York City.

Issues Raised:

- Expand affordable housing in our neighborhoods
- Protect rent regulations

What We've Done:

- Fought to fix Albany's broken rent laws by pushing to repeal vacancy decontrol and strengthen rent regulations.
- Continued to push my bills to close loopholes that allow personal use, phony demolition, and individual apartment improvements to be used to evict tenants and destroy affordability.
- Helped expose rampant tenant harassment in Chinatown and the Lower East Side, working with the Tenant Protection Unit and Attorney General to crack down on bad actors Steve Croman and Marolda Properties.
- Stood to protect rent regulated tenants in the Columbia Waterfront District against rent overcharges and unresponsive building management, along with the Carroll Gardens Association and CM Lander.
- Supported the state's \$20 billion, five year affordable housing and homelessness plan to create more affordable and supportive housing units and pushed to get the money spent now.
- Signed an amicus brief to support tenants in buildings receiving 421g tax breaks, along with PA James and colleagues.
- Worked to address dangerous levels of lead exposure as a result of hazardous construction, often caused by landlord negligence, as part of a Lead Task Force with housing advocates.
- Continued the push for the Elevator Safety Act, after a tragic death caused by a faulty elevator at Grand Street Guild.



*Meeting with community members at Smith
Houses Family Day*

Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Resiliency

The Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Resiliency group was moderated by Jordan Levine, and focused on how to address the long-term challenges facing our neighborhoods and how best to protect them.

Issues Raised:

- Protect our neighborhoods from overdevelopment
- Invest in waterfront resiliency to protect residents from storms, like Hurricane Sandy

What We've Done:

- Secured a commitment of \$100 million from the City in resiliency funding south of the Brooklyn Bridge through Battery Park City.
- Won \$27 million in resiliency funding for the Two Bridges area to complement the \$176 million in federal and city money we secured.
- Ensured community voices were heard when changes to state liquor laws were proposed, including stopping amendments that would have weakened community protections in the 200 foot rule.
- Continued opposition to out-of-context development proposals in Two Bridges, and at LICH and in BBP in Cobble Hill, and pushed to ensure community voices are heard.



*Meeting with community members at Rutgers
Houses Family Day*

Section 8 and Public Housing

The Section 8 and Public Housing group was moderated by Janice Won, and focused on the need to increase support for public housing and improve services for tenants.

Issues Raised:

- Make NYCHA more accountable and transparent
- Speed-up the repair process
- Improve security to keep residents safe

What We've Done:

- Worked with NYCHA, the State and FEMA to ensure Sandy resiliency funds are expedited and spent to protect public housing developments in Lower Manhattan.
- Successfully worked with the Smith Gas Task force to repair and restore gas pipes at Smith Houses.
- Urged HUD to revise a proposal that could have severe unintended consequences for NYC Section 8 residents.
- Convened a task force to expedite cooking gas repairs at Grand Street Guild, and continue to push for tenant compensation.
- Fought to fix Albany's broken rent laws by pushing to repeal vacancy decontrol and strengthen rent regulations.
- Continued to push my bills to close loopholes that allow personal use, phony demolitions, and individual apartment improvements to be used to evict tenants and destroy affordability.
- Secured funding for rooftop security cameras at Smith Houses.
- Funded security and accessibility entrance improvements in the Baruch Addition senior building.
- Received a commitment from DOT to repave the cracked sidewalks around LaGuardia Houses this year.
- Advocated for an increase in capital and operating funding for NYCHA to decrease repair times and make needed improvements to provide high quality housing.



Speaking out against new HUD regulations that would displace low income tenants

Neighborhood Quality Of Life

The Neighborhood Quality of Life group was moderated by Paul Goldstein, and focused on how to preserve our neighborhoods as great places to work and live.

Issues Raised:

- Stand up against overdevelopment
- Push for stronger liquor license regulations and enforcement
- Improve sanitation and trash pick-up

What We've Done:

- Continued opposition to out of context development proposals in Two Bridges, and at LICH and in BBP in Cobble Hill, and pushed to ensure community voices are heard.
- Ensured community voices were heard when changes to state liquor laws were proposed, including stopping amendments that would have weakened community protections in the 200 foot rule.
- Pushed the City to end tourist helicopter flights at the Downtown Manhattan Heliport, resulting in a reduction in flights and continuing to push for a complete ban.
- Listened to the concerns of our community, and worked block by block to ensure our neighborhoods remain great:
 - Convened the Worth Street Task Force with residents of Worth Street, Community Board 1, and city agencies to mitigate construction impacts from the Worth Street Reconstruction Project.
 - Worked with state DOT to ensure noise mitigation on overnight BQE work.
 - Ensured that Carroll Park receive regular rat control from the Parks Department, after a constituent reached out.
 - Addressed late night noise from a waterfront bar impacting Brooklyn Heights and Lower Manhattan with the local police precinct, Brooklyn Heights Association, and members of the community.
 - Ensured noisy late night repairs of the the A/C tunnel would not keep the community up at night by working with the MTA.



Joining the community for the Henry Street Settlement summer BBQ and voter registration drive

Education

The Education discussion group was moderated by Jeannine Kiely, with a focus on the need for quality schools citywide and ways to push for more opportunities for young people.

Issues Raised:

- Increase school funding
- More traffic control around neighborhood schools
- Improve parent engagement

What We've Done:

- Supported \$1.4 billion in increased state education funding.
- After advocating for Lunar New Year as a public school holiday, celebrated the first one with the community.
- Introduced the “Childcare Advance,” to allow families to defer \$2,000 in state taxes annually to help offset costs of childcare for young children.
- Advocated for children and parents by:
 - Convening the Lower Manhattan School Overcrowding Task Force to discuss important education issues, including the construction and design of the new Trinity Place School, with colleagues.
 - Securing street safety improvements for St. Stans in Greenpoint, with the PTA.
 - Successfully fighting for the valued PS 130 summer youth and afterschool programs to stay in the district.
 - Getting school crossing guards and traffic safety agents for MS 8 in Brooklyn, and numerous Lower Manhattan elementary schools, with colleagues.
- Released a package of proposals to address college affordability and success, as Chair of the Democratic Policy Group.
- Opposed and helped defeat the proposal to shift 30% of CUNY funding from the state to New York City.
- Received a commitment from the State Education Department to include Chinese, Korean, and other language offerings for the high school equivalency exam.
- Updated and expanded my annual Parent Resource Guide, providing even more information on local educational and extra-curricular programs.



Speaking to SAGE graduation award winners at PS

Parks, Open Space, and the Environment

The Parks, Open Space, and the Environment group was moderated by Ryan Kuonen, and focused on keeping our green spaces open and accessible, and our environment sustainable.

Issues Raised:

- Push the City to fulfill its promise of a complete Bushwick Inlet Park
- Prevent parkland from being privatized
- Increase parks programming



Rallying with the community for our successful effort to save the Pop-Up Pool

What We've Done:

- Secured the Brooklyn Bridge Park Pop-up Pool for another summer, along with the Love Our Pool coalition and colleagues, as we continue to work towards a permanent pool.
- Delivered another \$12 million for the park at Pier 42 on the Lower East Side, bringing the total funding I've delivered for the park to \$28 million, along with U.S. Senator Schumer.
 - Secured interim use and programming at the park, along with the City and "Paths to Pier 42" community partners.
- Continued to fight for a full Bushwick Inlet Park, advancing my bill to authorize eminent domain to acquire the land needed to finally complete the park.
- Opposed luxury housing in Brooklyn Bridge Park, including at Pier 6, and pushed to protect the Brooklyn Heights Promenade's historic view plane.
- Proposed a package of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as Chair of the Democratic Policy Group.
- Successfully advocated for neighborhood parks:
 - Allocated \$450,000 to Governors Island's "Slide Hill" -- the city's longest slide.
 - Brought nearly a dozen more cherry blossom trees to the Bowery, in Chinatown, adding to the over 100 cherry blossoms we've secured in the area, along with the Parks Department and the community.
 - Advocated to save Elizabeth Street Garden, along with Manhattan Community Board 2, colleagues, and community members.
 - Worked with residents, the police precinct, and the Parks Department towards better security of the North 6th Street waterfront esplanade.
 - Fought to get neglected tennis courts repaired in East River Park, after a constituent raised concerns.
 - Ensured that Carroll Park receive regular rat control from the Parks Department, after a constituent reached out.
 - Delivered improvements to Pierrepont Playground, including addressing safety concerns about concrete trip hazards.
- Raised concerns about the Algonquin Pipeline's impact on the Indian Point Energy Center in a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Open Government: Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform

The Open Government group was moderated by Susan Scheer, and focused on the need for ethics reform.

Issues Raised:

- Close the LLC Loophole, and other campaign finance reforms
- Pass ethics reform and expand transparency to clean up the state
- Increase voter participation through voting reform

What We've Done:

- Secured bipartisan support for a Constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*, with colleagues.
- Continued my long fight to close the LLC Loophole, which allows near-unlimited corporate contributions to drown out the voice of everyday New Yorkers in the political process:
 - Put a budget amendment on the Senate floor to close LLC Loophole.
 - Forced a committee vote on my bill to close the Loophole.
 - Sued the Board of Elections again to close the Loophole, with colleagues.
- Fought to lower limits for campaign contributions to reduce the influence of special interests, with legislation and coalition building.
- Continued the long push for Albany to act on 21st century voting reforms, making it easier for everyday New Yorkers to participate in elections.
- Fought for my bill to ensure footage from police body-worn cameras is accessible under the Freedom of Information Law without cost-prohibitive access fees, with PA James and AM Quart.
- Advocated for increased transparency, public notification, and public involvement when nursing homes and hospitals are threatened, through my LICH Act and Rivington Act.
- Introduced legislation requiring a community majority on the Battery Park City Authority Board, and continue to urge the Governor to appoint local members to the Board.



Rallying for comprehensive campaign finance reform and my bill to close the LLC Loophole

Healthcare, Senior Citizens, and Accessibility

The Healthcare, Senior Citizens, and Accessibility group was moderated by Joan Peters, and focused on ideas to address the health and accessibility challenges facing New Yorkers.

Issues Raised:

- Closure of nursing homes, like Rivington House
- Create affordable housing for seniors in our neighborhoods
- Improve transit coverage to accommodate seniors

What We've Done:

- Introduced the Rivington Act, to ensure that community health needs are met, and there is a public and transparent process when nursing homes are threatened.
- Continued the push to bring transparency to the broken process that led to the Rivington House closure, by testifying at the City Council and joining a community panel on local healthcare needs.
- Expanded eligibility for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCS (NNORCS).
- Won reduced fares for seniors and people with disabilities on the city's ferry service.
- Funded security and accessibility entrance improvements in the NYCHA Baruch Addition senior building.
- Sponsored free flu shot clinics for constituents in Brooklyn and Manhattan.
- Advanced my bill to expand access and eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption and Disability Rent Increase Exemption programs.
- Pushed agencies to expedite gas restoration to the CPC Chinatown Senior Center (and celebrated with a cook-off with Councilmember Chin).
- Continued to fight for the Local Input in Community Healthcare (LICH) Act, my bill to protect the healthcare needs of local communities when hospitals are threatened.
- Successfully advocated for a senior-friendly budget, securing:
 - \$1 million for Community Services for the Elderly to provide in-home supportive services to seniors.
 - Paid Family Leave, which allows individuals to take paid leave to care for family members.



Distributing annual Senior Citizen Resource Guides at United Jewish Council of the East Side's Lunch Program

Small Business, Economic Development, and Innovation

The Small Business, Economic Development, and Innovation group was moderated by Vincent Fang, and focused on relieving the pressure on small businesses and devising policies to support innovation in New York.

Issues Raised:

- Make it easier for small businesses to get financing from banks
- Preserve neighborhood stores
- Expand small business opportunities for minority-owned business

What We've Done:

- Passed my bill to increase loan access to the smallest small businesses, like many of the local family-owned businesses throughout our neighborhoods.
- Worked closely with the L train coalition to push the City and State to mitigate the impact of planned 18-month L train closure on small businesses and employees.
- Supported minority and women-owned businesses (MWBE), sponsoring legislation to ensure fairness in state MWBE contracts.
- Supported funding and expanded services for the North Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone.
- Sponsored legislation to provide a tax credit for the creation and development of open source software.



Speaking at a press conference in support of my successful bill to expand loan access to micro-businesses

Civil Rights and Justice

The Civil Rights and Justice discussion group was moderated by Tara Klein, and focused on both New York's recent civil rights and justice successes, as well as areas where progress has stalled.

Issues Raised:

- Improve Department of Labor worker protections and support educational programs on workers' rights
- Legalize marijuana
- Make government fairer

What We've Done:

- Passed legislation requiring a first step to expand flexible work schedules -- by mandating a study on more welcoming workplaces for working parents and those with family care obligations.
- Sponsored legislation to grant independent contractors the same protections against wage theft as traditional workers.
- Continued to lead the fight for Kalief's Law to restore the constitutional right to a speedy trial for all New Yorkers.
- Succeeded in pushing for executive action to accomplish many of the goals of GENDA and continue to work towards legislative action for its passage.
- Fought for my bill to ensure footage from police body-worn cameras is accessible under Freedom of Information Law without cost-prohibitive access fees, along with PA James and AM Quart.
- Continued to push for my bill to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana.
- Part of the coalition that won a statewide \$15 minimum wage, after introducing the first \$15 wage bill in the state.
- Successfully advocated for a robust paid family leave program so New Yorkers can care for children and loved ones in need.



Speaking in support of the STAT Act, my bill to increase police data transparency

Arts and Culture

The Arts and Culture discussion group was moderated by Andrea Herskowitz, and focused on supporting artistic and cultural programming in the district.

Issues Raised:

- Bring art installations to public spaces more often
- Increase neighborhood arts and community programming
- Expand the budget for grant programs for the arts

What We've Done:

- Brought an innovative, publicly designed art installation to the newly installed South Street median with the NYCDOT, Hester Street Collaborative, and community members.
- Continued the push for a world-class park at Pier 42 on the Lower East Side, securing another \$12 million for its redevelopment, bringing the total funding for the park to \$28 million, along with U.S. Senator Schumer.
- Continued to lead the fight to fix our state's broken ticket reselling laws, passing some of the strongest legislation in the country to crack down on illegal ticket-purchasing bots.
- Worked to bring additional State and City funding to local programming, arts, and cultural institutions, including: University Settlement, Manhattan Youth, the Tenement Museum, and Hudson River Park.
- Updated and expanded my annual Parent Resource and Senior Resource guides, sharing even more information on local arts and cultural programs in our community.



Unveiling the newest addition to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, after helping secure funds

Neighborhood Issues: A Chinese Language Conversation

The Chinese Language Conversation was moderated by Lana Cheung in Mandarin and Cantonese, and provided an opportunity to gather ideas and concerns.

Issues Raised:

- Protect tenants from harassment and unacceptable living conditions
- Expand multi-lingual and culturally competent programs in Chinatown

What We've Done:

- Helped expose bad landlords' pattern of tenant harassment in Chinatown and the Lower East Side, working with the Tenant Protection Unit and Attorney General to crack down on bad actors Steve Croman and Marolda Properties.
- After advocating for Lunar New Year as a public school holiday, celebrated the first one with the community.
- Passed my bill to increase loan access to the smallest small businesses, like many in Chinatown.
- Received a commitment from the State Education Department to work to include Chinese, Korean, and other language offerings in the high school equivalency exam.
- Condemned the unacceptable mocking of Chinatown residents and Asian-Americans in a Jesse Watters O'Reilly Factor segment.
- Ensured gas restoration to the CPC Chinatown Senior Center (and celebrated with a cook-off with Councilmember Chin).
- Successfully advocated for a senior-friendly budget, and helped secure:
 - Expansion of eligibility for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCS) and Neighborhood NORCS (NNORCS), which provide vital services to help seniors stay in their homes.
 - An additional \$1 million for Community Services for the Elderly, to provide in-home supportive services to seniors.



Sharing my Senior Resource Guide with constituents – ask my office for a copy!

鄰舍問題：華語討論組 - 小組主持張笑瑛

該小組提供粵語及普通話來探討大家所關心的議題和收集意見。

提出的問題：

- 保護租客權益免受剝削及不能接受的生活條件。
- 在華埠加強多種語言的文化活動。

我們做了些什麼：

- 協助撤出以常規模式去騷擾住戶的無良屋主。在下東城地區與唐人街租客協會及檢察長聯手打擊壞份子的屋主如 Steve Croman 和 Marolda 公司的劣行。
- 在爭取中國農曆新年成為學校假期後，首次在社區慶祝第一次的年初一假期。
- 通過我提出的議案：為小商業增加使用貸款；尤如許多華埠的小商業的情況。
- 獲得州教育局承諾在高中同等學歷課程文憑考試中提供中文、韓文及其他不同的語言。
- 強烈譴責 Jesse Walters O'Reilly（五號電台台記者及其節目）事件；以及對華埠居民和美國的華人進行不可接受的嘲弄。
- 確保恢復華埠老人中心安全接駁使用瓦斯氣，以及在恢復使用後與陳倩文議員在中心廚房為老人家賀誕慶祝。
- 成功爭取年長者撥款經費。
- 確保擴展華埠退休居民服務計劃（NORCS 及 N-NORCE）撥款資格。這個機構幫助家庭老人服務及許多重要的長者服務項目。
- 爭取一百萬元額外撥款給社區老人服務。提供支持在家老人服務計劃。

分享我們為你提供的年長者“指南”小冊子：請向我們職員索取！



Contact Me! My district office is open weekdays from 10am to 6pm, and I can always be reached at squadron@senate.state.ny.us or **212-298-5565 (MN)** or **718-875-1517 (BK)**