

UPDATE FROM [AUGUST 2015]
Gale A. Brewer
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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MBPO study reveals 90% of curb cuts along Broadway are deficient.

Fewer than 10 percent of Broadway curb cuts are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, according to a census conducted by staff and volunteers from my office.

Even as we marked the ADA's 25th anniversary last month—and the substantial progress in accessibility that the ADA has made possible—this statistic, on only one of the City's main thoroughfares indicates how far we still have to go to make our city truly accessible for all.

My office surveyed 1,357 locations where curb cuts should exist by law on Broadway, from Bowling Green through Inwood. Of those locations, only 1,209 curb cuts could be located and measured. Of those existing curb cuts, nearly 90 percent were missing the required “bumps” to warn vision-impaired New Yorkers of the presence of a ramp; 28 percent were too steep to comply with ADA specifications; 24 percent were crumbling; 18 percent were blocked by garbage cans, newsstands, or scaffolding; and 6 percent led directly into a pothole.

Since property owners are responsible for maintenance of these ramps, my office is urging the de Blasio administration to step up efforts to educate property owners on their responsibilities and ADA requirements, and provide more resources for the Department of Transportation to undertake inspections and compliance work.



I was proud to help instigate the USWNT ticker tape parade in early July—and even prouder to sponsor a viewing party for Manhattan girls teams at the United Federation of Teachers headquarters overlooking the parade route!

Expense grant applications now available; deadline Sept 10.

Applications for **Manhattan Community Award Program (MCAP)** grants to nonprofit organizations and public schools are now available. This year, grant applications will be **accepted online** for the first time. The deadline for applying is Sept. 10, 2015.

Applicants may request grants in amounts between \$3,500 to \$5,000, and grants are awarded by my office through a competitive review process, finalized by an independent panel of professionals from nonprofits and foundations serving Manhattan.

These grants can make a big difference for local neighborhoods and the schools and organizations serving them. Whether it's supporting a shelter for homeless and runaway youth, or a writing and mentoring program for girls in our schools, MCAP grants help programs that enrich neighborhoods and help change lives. For more information on MCAP grants, **visit our website.**

MBPO public hearing on congestion announced.

Worsening Manhattan street congestion has been cited by Mayor de Blasio's administration as a key factor in its push to cap growth in the for-hire vehicle industry. According to the Taxi & Limousine Commission, the number of for-hire vehicles on our streets has spiked by 63 percent since 2011, and right now we are adding vehicles at a rate of 2,000 per month. These increases, driven by Uber and other e-hail services, may be exacerbating Manhattan's traffic problems.

But Uber and similar for-hire vehicles are only one piece of a larger congestion puzzle, and we need to have a broader conversation on congestion causes and solutions in Manhattan. That's why my office will conduct a public hearing on Manhattan traffic congestion on September 10—to get the full picture of all sources of traffic increases, and potential solutions to the gridlock that afflicts Manhattan.

It's my hope that this public hearing will enable New Yorkers to get the full picture of both the problem and potential solutions from a broad range of experts and interested parties. Check my [website](#) for event details as September approaches.

New Community Liaison for CBs 3, 4, & 5.

Our newest community liaison is Drew Lombardi. A 2013 graduate of New York University, he spent two years working at Generation Citizen--a nonprofit which helps deliver high-impact civics training at public schools nationwide, and he completed the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service last spring. A Providence, RI native, we are delighted to have him bring his passion for social justice and civic engagement to our office!

EVENTS

My office is co-sponsoring a number of events as part of the [Harlem Week](#) celebration:

• **August 8: Youth Technology & Career Conference 2.0.**

11am - 5pm, Our Children's Foundation, 527 West 125th Street;

This conference for young people ages 13-24, will features sessions on careers in technology ("21st Century Jobs"), technology-based exhibits and demonstrations in the workplace and special hackathon activities focused on health, music & arts, and community relations.

• **August 15-16: Harlem Day Children's Festival.**

12 - 7pm, West 135th St bet Malcolm X & Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvds

Featuring exhibits, games, arts & crafts, live music, dance, free health testing and sports clinics.

▪ **August 22: Join us at the Percy Sutton Harlem 5K Run and Walk.**

8:30am, Edgecombe Avenue at 135th Street

A 5K run & “All Lives Matter” walk through historic Harlem to bring us all together. Join the MBPO delegation in the walk by RSVPing to [Athena Moore](#). Register for the 5k on the [New York Road Runners](#) website; registration closes on Thursday, August 20 at midnight.

August 14-16: 50th Anniversary of Holcombe Rucker Park Basketball.

My office is proud to support the 50th Anniversary celebration of the famed courts at Holcombe Rucker Park the 3rd weekend in August. It’s going to be a special celebration, with many NBA pros returning to where they got their start: 155th and 8th Avenue. For more information on all the events, contact our Northern Manhattan Office at (212) 531-1609 or George Ball, Deputy Commissioner, Rucker Pro Legends, (347) 928-9730.

Arts Students League’s 22” x 30” show continues in the MBPO Gallery.

This juried exhibition from students at the Art Students League explores how 40 different artists conceive and execute vastly different approaches on the same size “canvas.” Closes August 25.