

UPDATE FROM [DECEMBER 21] Gale A. Brewer MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT



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Police Community Relations Improvement Initiative Funding Available

The death of Eric Garner on Staten Island last year put a spotlight on police-community relations in New York City. Last winter and spring, joining with noted civil rights attorney Norman Siegel and my colleague Eric Adams of Brooklyn, my office conducted a series of community roundtable discussions among police officers, their commanders, and community members in Washington Heights, East Harlem, and the Lower East Side (B.P. Adams also hosted a series of events in Brooklyn).

The outgrowth of those discussions was a report issued in September, where I pledged to fund four community-based initiatives to improve relations between the police and young people in the communities they serve and protect in Manhattan.

The **application** for that funding is now available online. If your Manhattan community organization has an approach that will help build long-term sustainable improvement and has programming or other non-capital funding needs, please apply before the January 8, 2016 deadline. Four awards of \$12,000 are available; applicants must be 501(c) nonprofits, and programs must take place in Manhattan. Questions? Contact **Bodi Du** in my office.

Borough Board Votes Down ZQA/MIH, Offers Roadmap for Improvements

Manhattan's Borough Board voted 12-0 (with four abstentions) to conditionally reject the plans offered by the de Blasio administration to enhance construction of affordable housing—"Zoning for Quality and Affordability" and "Mandatory Inclusionary Housing"—unless major changes are made to improve them.

This vote follows the public hearing I held on November 16 where over 55 Manhattanites, neighborhood groups, and Community Board members testified—almost all against the plan. And the vote follows the decisions by most Community Boards to also reject the proposals (none supported ZQA, and only two supported MIH) raising many concerns

which were included in the Borough Board's November 30 resolution of disapproval.

The next steps? Staff in my Land Use Division are raising those and other concerns in talks with City Planning officials, and I'm optimistic that we can win improvements to both the ZQA and MIH proposals in a way that my office can support in its own formal recommendation—before the City Planning Commission holds its hearing December 16.

Roundtable On Improving Mental Health Services for Kids, Dec. 9

The Citizen's Committee for Children recently reported that New York City is failing to provide needed treatment to more than 237,000 children under 18 with diagnosable mental health conditions. Tragically, the capacity of the city's mental health programs can only help 12% of those between ages 5 and 17.

That's why I'm working to close the treatment gap by encouraging more and better mental health services in schools. On December 9, my office is bringing together school administrators, service providers, and advocates for a two-hour roundtable discussion on ways to fill the void of school-based mental health services—and recommend actions that individual schools, the Department of Education, and the city can take to strengthen school-based mental health services. If you're part of the human services community and can spend a morning on this vital topic, please [RSVP](#) online for the event.

EVENTS

December 3: Art Students League Small Works Show Opening

5-7pm, 1 Centre Street Gallery, 19th Floor South

The Art Students' League annual small works show will again be presented in my office Gallery from through January 27, 2016. The works on exhibit include painting, drawing, and mixed media. The exhibit is on view during normal business hours at 1 Centre St., 19th Floor South. A reception will be held Thursday, Dec. 3 from 5-7pm; please RSVP by calling 212-669-4448.

December 8: Special Briefing for HDFC Co-Op Residents

6:30-8:30pm, Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building, 163 W. 125th Street, 2nd Floor Art Gallery

Last summer, NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued a "guidance memo" for HDFC shareholders. This is HDFC co-op members' chance to learn more about these

guidelines, and about HDFC sales and property transfers, affordability requirements, and safeguards for preservation directly from the A.G.'s Real Estate Finance Bureau Chief. RSVP at hdfc.eventbrite.com or by calling (212) 531-1609.

December 9: Child Support Workshop

6-8pm, Northern Manhattan Office, 431 West 125th Street

Are you having problems with child support arrears? This training, cosponsored with the NYC Office of Child Support Enforcement, will help you better understand the processes, updates, and options for families. It will also connect you with other free child-support workshops and with programs to help you find jobs, reduce your child support debt, or lower your child support orders. You'll be able to have specific questions answered by workshop leaders. To RSVP, call (212) 531-1609 or register online at accessmanhattan.eventbrite.com.

December 11: Manhattan Youth Council Info Session

4:30-6:30pm, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

If you know a Manhattan teen who's interested in our city, please have them RSVP at bit.ly/ManhattanYouthCouncilSignUp to attend this important event. I want to hear their concerns about our future, which is why I'm working to form a Manhattan Youth Council to advise me on what matters most in their lives.

December 11: neighborhoods.nyc community web initiative

9:30-11:30am, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

As part of the historic launch of .nyc, the new top-level domain for web addresses that I helped establish when I served on the City Council, the city reserved nearly 400 neighborhood names across all five boroughs for use by community groups to develop new online hubs for civic engagement, information-sharing, and economic development. The neighborhood names are available for license by nonprofits and local development corporations that serve their community. Along with the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation, my office is sponsoring this information session to recruit and explain the neighborhoods.nyc initiative. RSVP at neighborhoodsnyc.eventbrite.com.

December 16: Gabe Pressman and Joseph Berger in Discussion.

7-8:30pm, Society for the Advancement of Judaism, 15 West 86th Street

My office helped establish the Manhattan Jewish Historical Initiative, which helps ensure that the history and heritage of the Jewish community of Manhattan is recorded and made

available to the world. “Great New York Stories: The Miracle of the NYC Jewish Experience,” is a discussion between Gabe Pressman, senior correspondent with NBC4, and Joseph Berger, editor-reporter at the New York Times. RSVP by emailing info@manhattanjewish.org for more info [visit their website](#). Co-sponsored by the New York Board of Rabbis and the Society for Advancement of Judaism.

December 16: Economic Development in Harlem.

6-8pm, Northern Manhattan Office, 431 West 125th Street

Central Harlem’s economic growth and evolution has sparked vital questions: Where’s the money? Where are the jobs? What are the timelines and impacts of development in my neighborhood? This session will provide an overview of current economic development projects underway, workforce training and job opportunities available to the community, and government resources available to help small businesses and local entrepreneurs. To RSVP, call (212) 531-1609 or register at accessmanhattan.eventbrite.com.