

UPDATE FROM

[JUNE 2015]

# Gale A. Brewer

## MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

  [galeabrewer](#) | [www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov) | 1 Centre Street, 19th Fl., New York, NY 10007 | (212) 669-8300

### **Fighting for affordable housing on all fronts.**

There's a lot of activity in the housing arena right now: the mayor is pushing to upzone East Harlem and Inwood (among other areas in the other boroughs) in exchange for higher requirements for affordable housing; rent regulations are due to expire this month unless the state legislature acts; and the 421-a tax abatement benefit for developers is also due to expire and currently under negotiation in Albany.

My office has coordinated a near-united front among Manhattan elected officials objecting to the aspects of the mayor's plan which particularly impact our borough. Learn more in our [letter to Carl Weisbrod](#), Chair of the City Planning Commission.

My rent regulations policy is simple: they must be renewed and strengthened; read the details here: [bit.ly/RentLawsPolicyStatement](http://bit.ly/RentLawsPolicyStatement). My office is coordinating a bus trip to Albany to rally for renewal of the rent regulations June 9; if you'd like to reserve a free seat, [sign up online](#).

I gave testimony to the City Council's Housing Committee on 421-a. This tax abatement benefit was meant to promote affordable development but is being used—outrageously, but legally— by luxury developers to build expensive condos and coops. You can [read that testimony here](#).

### **Forum brings together Postal Service and its customers.**

Bad postal service is a hot topic: hundreds of Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood residents turned out for my postal forum late last month at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Joined by representatives of Postal Service management, we heard about broken green relay boxes; bad service at substations; late deliveries of prescription drugs (a particular problem

now that managed care programs require prescription deliveries by mail instead of local pharmacies). We're following up on specific complaints, and already the Postal Service is acting: the green relay box mentioned at the meeting has been repaired! But we've clearly struck a nerve, so my office will be holding another forum in East Harlem next month.

### **New storefront Northern Manhattan Office**

#### **opens with a bang.**

I'm thrilled that hundreds of community members were able to join us for the grand opening of my new storefront Northern Manhattan Office earlier this month. There was food and drink and lots of catching up with old (and new) friends. Assisting in the ribbon-cutting were my Northern Manhattan Office Director Athena Moore (left), and former Borough President C. Virginia Fields (right).



The street-level storefront office provides the community with an easy place to go for services and assistance on issues ranging from housing to healthcare to education to immigration. Find your way to the office at 431 West 125th Street and our staff will assist you with your problem and connect you with the people and agencies who can help. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments can also be made by calling (212) 531-1609.

### **Community Board Leadership Development Series begins.**

A new semester of my office's "continuing education" program is beginning this month with two-hour classes on vital topics for Community Board members. Two new courses, Landmarks 101 and Unlocking Open Data, are included in this spring's trainings, along with old favorites like Land Use and Zoning 101, the NYC Budget Process, and Community Planning Tools. Check the schedule and [sign up today](#).

## **EVENTS**

### **June 8: Our second community-police relations forum.**

*6-8pm, Children's Aid Society, 130 East 101st Street*

My office is continuing our series of Community-Police Relations Dialogues with a forum in East Harlem, bringing together representatives from youth, civic, faith-based, non-profit,

business and law-enforcement stakeholders in that community for a structured, solutions-driven discussion. Based on the findings, my office will compile a report that will highlight specific actions to improve community-police relations. Monday, June 8, 6 – 8 pm, at the Children’s Aid Society, 130 E. 101st St. If you would like to participate, [online registration is required](#). Space is limited.

**June 9: Help fill a bus to rally for rent protections in Albany.**

*7am-6pm, Albany, Bus pick-up and drop-off at 125 Barclay Street*

My staff is working to help fill buses heading to Albany to rally for renewal of the rent regulations. Buses will leave at 7 am from 125 Barclay Street and return to the same location at around 6 pm. If you’d like to reserve a seat, [please sign up online](#) or call 212-669-4039.

**June 10: Free eye screening at Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital.**

*10am-2pm, MEETH Great Hall (1st Floor), 210 East 64th Street*

More than ever, it’s important to get the vision care you need; one in eight Americans has a common eye condition. That’s why my office is cosponsoring the Manhattan Eye Ear and Throat Hospital’s free intraocular pressure tests (a common test for glaucoma) and general eye chart exams. Please schedule an appointment by calling (212) 702-7676 or emailing [Rowena Ancheta](#).

**June 12: Help spread the word about free summer meals for kids.**

*7:30am, Multiple locations*

Too many families never hear about the Summer Meals for Kids program offered by the NYC Department of Education. That’s why I need your help on Friday, June 12th, distributing flyers at public schools across Manhattan to make sure they do. [Find a location](#) near you, and [sign up to join us](#) by 5 pm Wednesday, June 10. You can also call 212-669-4039 to sign up. Afterwards, we’ll be holding a special breakfast for all volunteers in my office!

**June 21: Make Music New York, New York’s largest free outdoor music festival.**

*4-7pm, Carl Schurz Park, East End Avenue & 86th Street*

My office is sponsoring a location for Make Music New York, a celebration of the first day of summer—the longest day of the year. Join the MBPO and Carl Schurz Park Conservancy for a concert at Carl Schurz Park from 4 – 7 pm at East End Avenue and 86th Street. There are over 1,000 free concerts citywide, featuring musicians of all ages, instruments and

genres. [Visit their website](#) for information on all Make Music New York locations.

**June 28: March with me, my staff and friends in the Pride Parade.**

*11am, Location TBA*

I'm honored to commemorate the 46th anniversary of Stonewall by participating in the annual Pride March on Sunday, June 28. This is an important reminder that there is still much to be done to achieve equality and tolerance for all. I hope you'll join me in walking proudly! Lineup at 11 am, exact location to be listed upon [completing registration](#).

**Fabulous fiber art is June's gallery show; reception June 26.**

Prize winning quilts by members of Manhattan's own Empire Quilters Guild is the June exhibit in the office's gallery. The styles range from exquisite examples of traditional quilts to a geometric Modern Style to several expressions of raucous humor. The art is viewable at my 1 Centre St. offices on the 19th floor, during normal business hours; a reception will be held Friday, June 26 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Find out more [on their website](#).