

UPDATE FROM [NOVEMBER 2015]
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November 16: my public hearing on zoning changes for more affordable housing.

On Monday, November 16, 2015 my office will conduct a public hearing—at the Clinton School, 10 E. 15th St., from 6:00 to 8:00 pm—on two proposed changes to the city zoning code meant to increase the stock of affordable housing in New York City.

“ZQA” is the acronym for the first proposal, “Zoning for Quality and Affordability,” which alters how senior housing is classified and constructed, reduces parking requirements as they relate to the construction of affordable housing, and changes the allowable shape of buildings, including height, when buildings contain affordable housing or senior housing. More information on ZQA is available here: bit.ly/AboutZQA

My office coordinated a response to the ZQA proposal by virtually all Manhattan elected officials last spring in a letter, and the Administration responded with modifications; both letters are viewable here: bit.ly/ZQALetters

The “Mandatory Inclusionary Housing” (MIH) Program is the second proposal, and it would apply to specific future developments (known as “special permits”) or for neighborhood-wide rezonings (as was recently enacted in Williamsburg by Mayor Bloomberg) which are going to allow for significant new residential development. This program would require developers to provide either 25 percent or 30 percent affordable housing depending on the degree of affordability. More MIH information is available at: bit.ly/AboutMIH

There are good things to be said for these proposals—more affordable housing is obviously crucial—but zoning can be a very blunt tool making changes across all five boroughs. We need to make sure that additional density is added in a manner that truly results in the most

affordable housing and the fewest possible adverse consequences to our neighborhoods.

Public input on these proposals counts! Please make time to come if the future landscape of New York City matters to you. If you plan to testify, please RSVP and upload your testimony at bit.ly/ZQA-MIHhearing and bring six printed copies of your testimony to the hearing on November 16.

November 10: public planning workshop on housing in Inwood.

Change is coming to Inwood, and the Inwood NYC Planning Initiative is an effort, led by the city's Economic Development Corporation, to plan for future housing, zoning and economic opportunities in Upper Manhattan—as part of Mayor de Blasio's proposed “upzoning” of the area.

A community meeting focused on the housing component, in partnership with the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development, will be held Tuesday, November 10 at PS 314, 4862 Broadway (at 204th St.), from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

This is an important opportunity for the community to express their opinions about what's worth keeping, and what's worth changing in that neighborhood. Decisions are made by the people who show up!

Future workshops will be held about Inwood parks and streets, community services, and new development. To be notified of these future sessions, sign up online at bit.ly/InwoodPlanning. Have specific questions? Email Inwood@edc.nyc or call 212-669-8151.

November is Adoption Month.

There are over 150 million children around the world are in need of caring families to adopt them; over 400,000 of those children are here in the United States. While there are many individuals and families looking to adopt, many are unaware of the staggering costs: The average adoption is \$35,000. Helpusadopt.org was founded in 2007 to alleviate the financial barriers to adoption, providing grants of up to \$15,000 to couples and individuals looking to adopt. If you're looking to adopt a child, or know someone who is, visit helpusadopt.org to learn how they can help.

EVENTS

November 4: Medicare & Medicaid workshop.

3-5pm, Northern Manhattan Office, 431 West 125th Street

Having problems with your Medicaid/Medicare health insurance certification and application? This workshop, cosponsored by the Social Security Administration, NYC Human Resources Administration, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will provide vital information on certification deadlines, insurance terminations, and related topics. RSVP, call (212) 531-1609 or register online at accessmanhattan.eventbrite.com.

November 5: Harlem LGBTQ Town Hall.

6-9pm, Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, 8th Floor ABC Room

Community Board 10 and I are co-sponsoring an LGBTQ Town Hall in Harlem. This will be a chance for the LGBTQ community in Harlem to discuss its concerns, ideas, and to honor outstanding organizations/individuals in the community. **RSVP** today.

November 11: Special hours for Veterans' Day.

12-3pm, Northern Manhattan Office, 431 West 125th Street

In conjunction with the Upper Manhattan Workforce 1 Center and Educational Data Systems, Inc., our Northern Manhattan Office will be open to connect veterans, veterans' families, and other residents with one-on-one support, screenings, career exploration resources, job search and readiness information, and resume development.

November 12: Solid Waste Advisory Grants Awards & fundraiser.

6pm, One Bryant Park, 48th Floor (42nd Street & 6th Avenue)

The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) cordially invites you to the 2015 Composting Grants Awards Fundraiser, where we will honor and thank local composters who have won grants this year for their composting projects.

Light refreshments will be served in an elegant setting overlooking Manhattan from one of the top floors of One Bryant Park, courtesy of the Durst Organization. Naturally, the event will be zero waste; all materials will be collected for recycling, and food scraps will be composted. 100% of the proceeds from the event will go towards the SWAB's Annual Composting Grants program. Due to security considerations, please purchase a ticket by 2pm on November 12 by visiting freedommerchants.com/swabnovember.html

November 18: Heat & utility assistance workshop.

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

To help utility customers better understand service issues ranging from loss of essential light or heat to excessive arrears to final termination notices, my Northern Manhattan Office, in partnership with the Public Utility Law Project of New York, Con Edison, and the NYC Human Resources Administration, is sponsoring a workshop where New Yorkers can learn about deferred payment arrangements, discount programs, public assistance programs to avoid service termination, and other basic rights to which you are entitled. To RSVP, call (212) 531-1609 or [register online](#).

In the Gallery: works by Manny Vega & apprentices, in honor of Puerto Rican Heritage Month.

To help celebrate Puerto Rican Heritage Month, an exhibition of paintings by Manny Vega and his students Elisa Core, Gabriele Lebron and Rebecca Mayfield will occupy the gallery in my office through November 30. Vega is an East Harlem painter, printmaker, muralist and mosaicist whose work portrays the traditions of the African Diaspora in the U.S., the Caribbean and Latin America. A reception will be held Friday, Nov. 20 from 6 – 8 pm in the Gallery at 1 Centre St., 19th Floor South. Please RSVP by calling 212-669-4448. Exhibit is also open during normal business hours in my office.