

Construction Worker Safety Group created to address spike in construction accidents.

In late January, another shocking work site casualty occurred in Manhattan, as a worker on a project at 34 W. 17th St. fell four stories and was impaled by multiple pieces of steel rebar that were not properly equipped with plastic safety end caps. The 12-story building is undergoing a full conversion into condominiums, and the work site has a track record of serious safety violations. Just last year, the site was cited for failure to maintain fall protection, among more than two dozen other safety and code violations.

This is part of a broader pattern. According to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 18 workers died on construction sites in New York City from October 2014 through September 2015, compared to just 12 in the previous period, and only seven the year before that.

That's why I've convened a Construction Safety Working Group composed of labor leaders, developers, construction safety experts, and elected and community representatives to find ways to address this spike in construction accidents through legislation, rule changes, and/or better city enforcement.

Manhattan Youth Leadership Council formed to advise on crucial issues.

I recently hosted two listening sessions with over 150 Manhattanites aged 14 to 18. We heard about issues ranging from school discipline, LGBTQ topics, expanding in-school opportunities, police-minority youth relations, and civic engagement. As a result, my office is creating a permanent Manhattan Youth Leadership Council, which will meet periodically to advise me—and help inform city policy—on issues like these. If you know of a Manhattan teen who's interested in our city, please have them consider applying!

Email andrewlombardi@manhattanbp.nyc.gov for an application, more info, or with

any questions.

Landmarks Preservation Commission to act on backlog items February 23.

On Tuesday, February 23, 2016 the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) will hold a Public Meeting to take actions on its 95 backlog properties. These properties were calendared by the Commission over the past 50 years for consideration for designation but were never acted upon.

Working together with my office and committed preservationists, the LPC devised a transparent and orderly process to help clear the backlog. Now, after four public hearings and thorough consideration, the LPC's February 23rd meeting will decide whether to prioritize properties for designation, remove non-priority properties from the calendar by taking no action, or remove properties from the calendar by voting to not designate based on merit. Find out more on the [LPC website](#).

State of the Borough event at The New School was a smash!

More than 700 Manhattan elected officials, Community Board members, nonprofit leaders, educators, and residents attended my 2016 State of the Borough event held on an unseasonably warm Sunday, January 31st at The New School's Tishman Auditorium.

Attendees were treated to a brief update on our work over the past year, including passage of eight bills, a range of land use decisions, and more than a dozen town halls and community forums on issues ranging from the LGBTQ community in northern Manhattan to small business owners' concerns throughout the borough.

Then, the real fun: a panel discussion with Manhattan-based restaurateur Marc Murphy, Young People's Chorus director Francisco Núñez, Brotherhood/SisterSol co-founder Khary Lazarre-White, and Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families policy fellow & NYU professor Dr. Sumie Okazaki.

The event was broadcast live by Manhattan Neighborhood Network and will be rebroadcast throughout February as a special edition of "Represent NYC" on local cable carriers (Time Warner Ch. 34 & 1995, RCN Ch. 82, FiOS Ch. 33). You can also watch it online, anytime on the [MNN website](#).

EVENTS

February 6: Inwood NYC Housing and Neighborhood Zoning input session.

10am-1pm, P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie School, 3703 10th Avenue

The Inwood NYC team, in partnership with Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and Community Board 12, will be hosting a Housing & Neighborhood Zoning public planning workshop on February 6. This will be the second public workshop on affordable housing and neighborhood zoning to gather more input from as many Inwood community members as possible. Learn more by visiting the [NYCEDC website](#).

Throughout February: Tenant clinics at my Northern Manhattan Office.

Times vary (see below), 431 West 125th Street

Housing Conservation Coordinators has expanded their territory, and can now assist tenants with legal representation who live between 34th St. and 100th St. west of Fifth Avenue, OR anywhere in Manhattan if they have an existing Housing Court case, have a child under 18, and have some form of public assistance.

If a tenant meets these requirements, they're invited to meet with an attorney from Housing Conservation Coordinators at any of the regular legal clinics in my Northern Manhattan Office. Walk in, or RSVP to (212) 531-1609. February's dates and times are:

- Wednesday, February 3 from 3 – 5 pm
- Thursday, February 11 from 5 – 7 pm
- Wednesday, February 17, 3 – 5 pm
- Thursday, February 25, 5 – 7 pm

Mondays in February: SNAP/Food stamp clinics at my Northern Manhattan Office.

10am-5pm, 431 West 125th Street

The NYC Coalition Against Hunger's 2014 survey showed that one in six New Yorkers are "food insecure"— which is defined as limited or uncertain access to adequate food—including one in four NYC children and 10% of city seniors. That's why my office is working teaming the West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) to make SNAP benefit —formerly known as food stamps—easier to obtain. Every Monday (except for legal holidays), my Northern Manhattan Office is hosting a screening and re-certification clinic with WSCAH in a demonstration project that allows applicants or recipients to be screened, apply, or be re-certified to receive SNAP benefits.

All participants should bring ID, a social security card, proof of address, rent, utilities &

income. Walk in, or RSVP (212) 531-1609. February's dates are:

- Monday, February 8
- Monday, February 22
- Monday, February 29

February 22: SCRIE/DRIE/Rent Freeze workshop in Stuy Town.

1-4pm, Stuyvesant Town Community Center, 449 East 14th Street

Seniors and the disabled who meet the requirements can freeze their rents through the state SCRIE and DRIE programs, now collectively labelled as "NYC Rent Freeze." But those requirements are extensive. That's why I'm cosponsoring a SCRIE/DRIE workshop with State Sen. Brad Hoylman—to help seniors or the disabled to apply for this useful program. RSVP required; please call (212) 633-8052 to do so and obtain the list of documents you should bring.

February 24: Community Health Summit in Harlem.

10am-2pm, James Weldon Johnson NYCHA Community Center, 1833 Lexington Avenue.

I am joining with Public Advocate Letitia James to host a Community Health Summit on February 24 from 10am –2pm at the James Weldon Johnson Community Center in East Harlem, 1833 Lexington Ave.

February 25: Impact of plastic bags on our environment at NYU.

6:30-8pm, NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, Room 914

I'm also joining with Sen. Hoylman in sponsoring a forum on plastic bags, "Bag the Plastic," on Thursday, February 25, at the NYU Kimmel Center, Room 914, from 6:30-8pm.

Opening February 9: Contemporary Artists Guild 48th Annual Show in my office Gallery.

6-8pm, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South

This month, the Contemporary Artists' Guild presents its 48th Annual show in my office gallery. Founded in 1968, the Guild's mission is to promote communication with the public through the visual arts—painting, drawing, sculpture, prints, photography, and mixed media and conceptual art. This year's show features 16 artists, with an opening reception Tuesday, February 9, from 6-8pm. Please RSVP at (212) 669-4448.

Please come to the opening or visit the gallery during normal business hours, through Friday, February 26.