

UPDATE FROM [JUNE 2016]
Gale A. Brewer
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT



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DOB issues stop-work order on 180 East 88th Street.

Along with Council member Ben Kallos, we achieved a modest victory when the city Department of Buildings (DOB) announced a stop work order on 180 East 88th Street, a new building whose developers were exploiting a loophole in the city zoning code to increase their 500-foot-tall building's height by about 60 feet. You may have read about their plan in the Times, which described the tactic of slicing off a four-foot sliver of the property and not building on that portion. The DOB deserves great credit for understanding the scam, and taking action.

Working to increase Community Board funding.

Mayor de Blasio and the City Council are in the final phase of negotiating the city's budget for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1. In May, I testified in favor of funding increases for the City's 59 Community Boards before the City Council's Finance Committee.

The Mayor's proposed budget allots Manhattan's 12 Community Boards an average \$340,000 for operating costs. I asked for an increase of \$167,000 per board to help manage their increasing responsibilities—especially the major land-use proposals under ZQA and MIH—and invest in technology, from new software for urban planning and data analysis to live webcasting of regular meetings. You can [read my budget testimony](#) online.

Fresh Food for Seniors about to kick off!

The 2016 season of my Fresh Food for Seniors program is about to begin. Order an \$8 bag of fresh fruit and vegetables a week in advance—a \$15 value—and you'll support local agriculture and eat healthier! In partnership with GrowNYC (the greenmarket people), Councilmembers Helen Rosenthal and Corey Johnson, the Corbin Hill Food Project, The Doe Fund and various neighborhood senior centers. We're excited to add

new sites from Washington Heights to the West Village—and on Roosevelt Island! Sign up and delivery dates vary at each location; [check my website after June 15](#) for the complete list. Contact Shula Warren at 212-669-2392 for more details.

Landmarks 101 training session now viewable online.

Basha Gerhards conducted an excellent Landmarks 101 Community Board training, as part of our leadership training series, and [we recorded her May 31st session](#) on video for those who couldn't make it. The session covers the birth of the historic preservation movement, history of the landmark law and the responsibilities of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Community Board Trainings open for registration.

My office's *Conflicts of Interest and Freedom of Information* session is *required* for new members. *Tools & Resources To Prepare Statement Of District Needs* is recommended for all members. Please [register online](#). Remaining open sessions include:

- * [Tools & Resources To Prepare Statement Of District Needs](#) – Recommended for all members. Thursday, June 2, 6–8pm at 1 Centre Street
- * [Conflicts of Interest and Freedom of Information](#) – Required for all new members. Monday June 6, 6–8pm at 1 Centre Street
- * [Parliamentary Procedure 101: Conducting A Meeting](#) – Thursday June 9, 6–8pm at 1 Centre Street
- * [Land Use & Zoning 101](#) – Tuesday June 28, 6–8pm, at 1 Centre Street

For more information, contact Paola Liriano at 212-669-2094 or orpliriano@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

EVENTS

The Summer Events Calendar is now online!

Each year my staff does their best to compile the most comprehensive listing of free or inexpensive summer events. This year's edition is available for [download on my website](#).

June 5, 12 & 26: Volunteer to march with Gale in June parades!

Volunteer to march with Gale and the rest of the Brew Crew in the [Celebrate Israel Parade](#) on Sunday June 5, the [Puerto Rican Day Parade](#) on Sunday June 12, or the [NYC Pridefest Parade](#) Sunday June 26. Marching with us is fun, and it's great exercise! You'll

get a free MBPO t-shirt and see NYC at its best. Sign up online at the individual eventbrite links above or call (212) 669-4039.

June 12: West side plantathon.

11 am – 6 pm, West side of Broadway, from 72nd to 86th Street

The Westside Federation of Neighborhood and Block Associations' Annual Plantathon & Crafts Fair will be held on Sunday, June 12, 2016. Please join in for a day of fun, good food and to meet and greet the community. There will be a Children's Block between 84th and 85th Streets with games and face painting; the Federation's booth will be between 85th & 86th, and the entertainment stage is on this block as well. Call 212-969-8047 for more information.

June 16 - 18: Demystifying Housing: the state of affordable housing after MIH & ZQA.

Harlem State Office Building, 163 W. 125th Street

The comprehensive three-day **Demystifying Housing Conferences** sponsored by PA'LANTE Harlem and run by the heroic Elsie Vasquez is coming up! On day two, June 17, at 1:30 pm, I'll be moderating a panel discussion on the state of affordable housing in the post-MIH & ZQA world. Joining me on the panel will be Tim Collins, Esq., Benjamin Dulchin, Walter South, NY City Council members Mark Levine, Helen Rosenthal, and Housing Committee Chair Jumaane Williams. Learn more and register on the **PA'LANTE website**. You can also register by phone (212)491-2541 or **email**.

June 25: School and teaching artist expo (SATAE).

10 am – 7 pm, Harlem Sugar Hill Children's Museum, 898 St. Nicholas Ave. (at 155th St.)

With the great help of Community Board 9, I'm delighted to co-sponsor the **School and Teaching Artist Expo (SATAE)** on June 26. We're bringing together school administrators, the Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), community-based organizations, the Mayor's Office of Contracts (MOCS) and teaching artists (or aspiring teaching artists!) to collaborate on how to best provide a high quality arts curriculum and navigate the city's contracting process. At 4 pm, join us at a launch party for the CB 9 Artists Directory hosted by the CB 9 Arts & Culture Committee. **RSVP online**.

June 29: Manhattan Pride Dance at the historic Surrogate's Courthouse.

6 – 9 pm, Surrogate’s Courthouse, 31 Chambers Street

Join us for our **Manhattan Pride Dance** on Wednesday June 29! Please **RSVP online**.

June 30: Break the Ramadan fast with us.

6:30 –10 pm, Alianza Dominicana Cultural Center, 530 W. 166th St.

Join us to celebrate Ramadan at a break fast prayer and dinner at the Alianza Dominicana Cultural Center. Please **RSVP online**.

In the gallery: Quilt show continues.

The Manhattan-based community of “quilters” known as **Empire Quilters**, continues their “Urban Inspirations” in the 19th Floor Gallery this month. Please visit the gallery during normal business hours, through June 30.