

Sept Update

PRIMARY
DAY
Tues., Sept. 13
Polls open
6 am – 9 pm
VOTE!

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT GALE A. BREWER

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Sidewalk sheds: a modest proposal.

Sidewalk “Sheds” are a relatively new and necessary safety feature on the streetscape.

While safety is, of course, vitally important, my office hears complaints that sheds go up regardless of whether work is about to begin—and often stay up longer than the work requires. This lack of control has led to at least 9,000 sheds covering city sidewalks last year and creating pockets of blight.

Complaints most often come from retail tenants who have little advance notice or control over the pace of the exterior work, yet have to suffer the consequences of reduced accessibility, visibility and pedestrian traffic to their businesses. Making sure the exteriors of buildings are safe for pedestrians is critical, but reasonable steps need to be taken to make the process fairer for those who rely on pedestrian visibility and building attractiveness to pay their rent.

The Department of Buildings (DOB) has to do better to align the start and end dates of shed permits with the actual exterior work by requiring owners to submit work schedules. The DOB should also be empowered to order removal of sheds after a reasonable period – say, 90 days – unless a satisfactory explanation is provided by an engineer. And tenants should receive 30 days’ notice that sheds will be constructed so they may plan accordingly.

Driverless cars: a NYC symposium.

An enormous amount of research and development is going into the development of driverless cars—known as “Autonomous Vehicles” in the industry. It’s not a matter of “if” anymore, it’s a matter of when. That’s why my office is sponsoring a forum with representatives from the city’s Taxi & Limousine Commission, Dept. of Transportation, NYU’s Rudin Center, and one of the manufacturers of AV’s, Audi. It promises to be an

interesting discussion—please join us! Sept 27, 4-7pm, 1 Centre St., 19th Floor South. Register online to attend by visiting DriverlessNYC.eventbrite.com.

Pier 40/St. John's Terminal proposal isn't good enough.

My office has recommended the denial of land use applications and the transfer of air rights from the Hudson River Park Trust for the proposed redevelopment of the St. John's Terminal site in the West Village as part of the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

A worthy plan for the St. John's Terminal site would have more and better affordable units, a true neighborhood retail plan, and accessible public spaces that residents will actually use. We don't need to choose between a massive project with massive flaws and letting Pier 40 fall into the river. The City Planning Commission is now considering the proposal (and held a public hearing on the proposal in late August). After the CPC votes, it will be considered by the City Council. [Read my full ULURP opinion](#) online.

Manhattan Community Award Program funding applications due Sept. 25.

My Manhattan Community Award Program (MCAP), which provides funding for programming and operational expenses to nonprofit organizations and public schools, now has applications available online at bit.ly/MBPOgrants. As part of this year's program, I've allocated \$40,000 of MCAP funding for the "Fresh Taste Manhattan Initiative," an effort to promote healthy eating and food preparation at local supermarkets.

Whether it's supporting a shelter for homeless and runaway youth, a mentoring program for girls, or helping families put fresher, healthier food on the table, these awards support programs that can help change lives. Find out more at manhattanbp.nyc.gov/mcap. Deadline for both general MCAP and MCAP Fresh Taste applications is Sunday, September 25, 2016, at 11:59 pm.

EVENTS

September 7: Columbia University job fair.

Columbia University is having a Career and Resource Expo for those who wish to work at the University or its partners. Learn more about the positions available and meet with hiring managers on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016. Online pre-registration is encouraged

at CareerExpoCU2016.eventbrite.com. A list of available positions and job descriptions are also viewable at that webpage. Sept. 7, 9:30 am – 3 pm, Lerner Hall/Roone Arledge Auditorium, 2920 Broadway (at W. 115th St.).

September 11: MNN’s NYC Represent: register and vote!

My upcoming Represent NYC episode on MNN is all about voting rights, how voting has changed around the country, and how we should be making it easier to vote here in New York. My guests were Adam Gitlin of the Brennan Center for Justice and Jarret Berg from the N.Y. Democratic Lawyers Council, and L. Joy Williams, President of the Brooklyn chapter of the NAACP. The show will air on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 7:00 pm on MNN1 (In Manhattan: TWC 34 & 1995, RCN 82, FiOS 33) and on MNN’s new HD Community Channel available on Time Warner Cable Channel 1993. The program can also be [streamed live online](#). The episode will repeat on Wednesday 9/14 at 9 pm, also on MNN1 and MNNHD.

September 12: Minority and Women-owned businesses RFP workshop.

If you’re a developer or contractor in Manhattan who wants to get involved in upcoming developments or learn more about the city’s Economic Development Corp. RFP process, attend an Access Workshop on Monday, September 12 at NYCEDC, 110 William Street, Conference Room 4A/B. To RSVP email jsingletary@edc.nyc or register at bit.ly/rfp-workshop.

September 15: East Harlem Burial Ground development open house.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has proposed a new mixed-use development project in East Harlem at the 126th St. Bus Depot site, which is also the site of the East Harlem African Burial Ground. Join members of the community, archaeologists, historians, and representatives from city agencies to engage in a conversation about the history and future of the location at a “Mixed Use Open House.” Through interactive activities, participants will learn about the burial ground and about current efforts to redevelop the site into a public memorial and mixed-use, mixed-income development. Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 3rd Ave., on Thursday, September 15, 6 – 8:30 pm. More information is [available online](#). To register for the event, please email E126Project@edc.nyc.

September 16 & 18: Reception honoring African-American Manhattanites and the 47th Annual African-American Day Parade.

The 47th Annual African-American Day Parade will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18, and this year's theme is education. My office staff and volunteers will again honor the historical legacy and contributions of African American leaders, including teachers, school administrators and community leaders. Join us the Friday evening before the parade to honor them, and march with us at the parade itself.

To RSVP for the Sept. 16 evening reception at 1 Centre St., visit africanamericanreception.eventbrite.com. RSVP to march with us on Sept. 18 at africanamericanparade.eventbrite.com.

September 22: Forum on downtown construction projects.

With scores of public and private construction projects happening in the lower Manhattan neighborhood, residents have a right to know more about the disruptions caused-- and the benefits to come-- from all this development work. Join me and my staff, Community Board 1, and all downtown elected officials to discuss these challenges at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St., from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, September 22, 2016. RSVP at CB1construction.eventbrite.com.

September 25: Dispose of dangerous goods responsibly at the SAFE disposal event.

The NYC SAFE (Solvent, Automotive, Flammables, Electronics) Disposal event will be held on Sunday, September 25, rain or shine, at Union Square's North Plaza (17th Street between Park Avenue South and Broadway) from 10 am – 4 pm. Learn more at www.nyc.gov/safedisposal.

In the gallery: Arlene Schulman photography. Manhattan photographer (and CB 12 Community Board member) Arlene Schulman's work is the September show in the gallery. The reception will be held Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 5 to 7 pm. Gallery hours coincide with our office's normal business hours, 9 am to 5 pm, at 1 Centre St., 19th Floor south.