

UPDATE FROM

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MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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“Land rush” begins for .nyc web addresses.

I am a determined local shopper. Years ago, I was looking for furniture online, and could not easily identify whether the furniture makers whose work I liked were New Yorkers. That’s why, as a City Council member, I fought to create a “top-level domain” (TLD) for web addresses just for New Yorkers—“.nyc” instead of “.com” or “.org.” Paris has one, and so does Berlin. Why not New York?

I began by introducing a resolution when I served on the City Council in support of .nyc in 2008; the process took years of nudging all the parties involved, including convincing then-Mayor Bloomberg and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

We succeeded, and six years later the “land rush” has now begun for .nyc urls. If you or your business or organization has a physical New York City address, you can register a .nyc url at www.ownit.nyc. If no one else claims the same name, on October 6 it’s yours for the price of the annual registration fee (if there is a competing claim, an auction will be held and the domain will be sold to the highest bidder).

The new .nyc TLD gives local businesses, organizations, service providers and vendors of locally made goods the chance to seize this new web territory and brand themselves with their local roots—and perhaps show up higher in organic search engine results.

“Poor Doors” must end.

In our city, we all live together, and creating a two-door system in a development that is receiving tax incentives or other bonuses is offensive. That’s why I’m working to revise the City’s Inclusionary Housing Zoning system to ban the practice. As New York City ramps up construction of affordable and middle-income housing under Mayor de Blasio, it’s imperative that new developments uphold the values of fairness and diversity that make our city great.

Paid Sick Leave may now be taken by NYC employees.

After years of fighting, New York City residents may now take a paid sick day to care for themselves or an immediate family member, up to an annual limit of five days each year. Find out more at manhattanbp.nyc.gov/paidsickleave.

Presentations on the City Budget Process and Land Use & Zoning on my website.

As part of our ongoing support of Manhattan’s 600 Community Board members, my office has mounted several special-topic training sessions over the past two months, and you might be interested too! You can view or download presentations on the City Budget Process or Land Use here: <http://on.nyc.gov/1srV2L3>. Learn more about how our city works—or even apply to become a Community Board member next February!

More are eligible for rent increase exemptions—find out if you qualify.

Albany has changed the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) laws so that many more are eligible for a rent freeze. If your income is lower than

\$50,000 and you are 62 or over or disabled, you may qualify. Find out if you qualify—and get help completing an application—by attending one of the forums I’m co-sponsoring along with Assembly member Brian Kavanaugh and State Senators Brad Hoylman and Liz Krueger:

Monday, August 11, 1 – 3 PM, Tompkins Square Library, 331 E. 10th Street (between Avenues A & B);

Tuesday, August 12, 1:30 – 4:30 PM, Stuyvesant Town/PCV Community Center, E. 16th Street (at 1st Ave.);

Thursday, August 21, 1 – 3:30 PM, Stein Senior Center, 204 E. 23rd St. (Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues).

New staff.

Lucian Reynolds has joined our Land Use Department as an Urban Planner. He earned a Masters of Urban Planning from Hunter College and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua from 2006 to 2008. Previously, he worked in the economic development field with the NYS Harlem Community Development Corporation.

EVENTS

It’s the 40th Anniversary of Harlem Week and the MBPO is co-sponsoring two events! Harlem Week is a joint event sponsored by Harlem Week, Inc. and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.harlemweek.org for a complete events listing.

Tuesday, August 5, 9:30AM – 3PM. The Elders’ Jubilee includes an indoor-outdoor Senior Expo, Farmers Market and Awards Luncheon at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Health screenings, exercise, and a wide range of healthy living information will be available.

Saturday, August 23, at 9AM is the Percy Sutton Harlem 5K Run & Peace Walk through Historic Harlem saluting the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. This event brings together all those who wish to combat gun violence, bullying, and domestic violence and to encourage city-wide unity and to bring about peace in our communities. Join us—look for the MBPO delegation assembled at the start point of the event! Register at www.nyrr.org or call 212-423-2286. Registration closes August 21st.

Free kayaking on the East River August 10.

Stuyvesant Cove Park (E. 20th Street at the East River) is again hosting free kayaking this month from 1:15 to 5:15 PM on Sunday, August 10. Volunteers of the Long Island City Community Boathouse (www.licboathouse.org) will provide kayaks and life jackets; waivers must be signed before embarking on a 20 to 30-minute kayak trip.

Job Fair in Washington Heights August 21.

Co-sponsored with State Sen. Adriano Espaillat, this is an opportunity for job-seekers to meet potential employers, including government agencies, institutions, unions, and businesses. Learn about hiring and training opportunities in our community. Thursday, August 21, 9AM – Noon, at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty L. Shabazz Center, 3940 Broadway (at W. 165th St.). RSVP at 212-544-0173 or eventsRSVP@adrianoespaillat.org

2nd Annual Healthfirst Health and Wellness Expo August 23.

The Healthfirst Health & Wellness Expo begins with a breakfast at 9 AM at the Alhambra Ballroom (2116 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.) and a panel discussion about diabetes and mental health, issues that affect many Healthfirst members and their families. From 11 AM to 5 PM at the Powell State Office Building, Expo attendees can enjoy a health fair complete with games, activities, giveaways, and sessions led by Healthfirst partners.

Celebrate Women’s Equality Day on August 26, by pledging to register five voters.

Women’s Equality Day, initiated by former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug, commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote and calls attention to women’s continuing efforts toward full equality. Help us honor this cause with a pledge to register at least five new voters before the October 10 registration deadline for the General Election. Join me on the steps of City Hall to pay tribute to the leaders of the women’s equality movement, and sign the pledge!

Arts Students League summer show continues at my office gallery.

“Classical Realism” is the summer show continues in my office gallery until August 28 during normal business hours at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South.