

NEWS FROM

[APRIL]

Gale A. Brewer

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007 | www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov | (212) 669-8300

Paid Sick Day law takes effect; Dept. of Consumer Affairs offers trainings.

The paid sick days requirement for employers with more than five employees took effect April 1st; employers must provide notice to employees by May 1st, and employees may begin using accrued leave July 30th.

The city's Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is the agency charged with enforcement, and is offering trainings and conducting outreach across the city to educate both employees and employers as to their rights and responsibilities. Employers and employees can visit nyc.gov/PaidSickLeave for more information, including who the law applies to, the required Notice of Employee Rights, one-page overviews, FAQs, events and information on filing a complaint.

New Yorkers can also follow DCA's handle @NYCDCA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date-- using the hashtag #paysickleave. Employers can ask questions online on DCA's "Live Chat for Business" platform from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

In case you're wondering, here's a rundown of the provisions:

- New York City employers with five or more employees, who work more than 80 hours per calendar year in New York City, must provide paid sick leave-- and those with one to four employees must provide UNpaid sick leave. Employers with one or more domestic workers who have worked for the employer for at least a year and who work more than 80 hours per calendar year must provide two days of paid sick leave (which is in addition to the three days of paid rest under New York State Labor Law).
- Employees accrue one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours in a calendar year.
- The law covers full-time and part-time employees, transitional jobs program employees, undocumented employees, those who are family members but not owners, and those who live outside of New York City but work in the city.
- Employees can use sick leave to care for themselves or a family member—a child, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, parent, grandparent, child or parent of a spouse or domestic partner, or sibling (including half, adopted, or step sibling).

An active legislative agenda—a first for a Borough President.

I introduced the original Paid Sick Leave law passed last year (covering employers of 15 or more people), when I served on the Council. But I was *also* a sponsor of the expansion passed this year (for employers of five or more), even though I'm now Borough President.

One of the little-known aspects of the Borough President's job responsibilities is that we can introduce legislation in the City Council. I have a full legislative agenda — more than 35 bills that I am actively working to pass. The bills include everything from making our city safer by mandating more audible pedestrian signals at street crossings, to making our city more youth friendly by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to serve on Community Boards.

For a complete listing of the legislation I have introduced, please visit www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Affordable housing working groups.

I've formed two working groups to address the affordable housing crisis. The first is seeking ways to keep people in their homes. A group of housing and tenant advocates are examining all laws, policies and practices that need reform or enforcement in order to protect tenants.

The second group-- made up of housing policy experts and the development community focuses on the development of new affordable housing. They are seeking ways to creatively identify space, piece together financing, and change zoning regulations in order to create more affordable housing units. We will share the result of their work with the Mayor's Office, which will soon be producing a blueprint for creating and maintaining more affordable housing.

I'm working with all Manhattan Community Boards to identify potential sites for new construction of affordable housing. Whether city-owned or vacant, empty lots or buildings, there are places throughout the Borough that could serve as appropriate sites.

Manhattan Budget Priorities Report sent to Mayor.

The Borough Board— comprised of all Manhattan Councilmembers and Community Board managers— approved the annual Budget Priorities report and submitted it to the Mayor, City Council, and Director of Management and Budget. View the full report at manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

As part of the Board's budget process, a questionnaire was circulated and responses were received from all 12 Community Boards and nearly every zip code in Manhattan. Those responding expressed deep concern over the City's looming budget challenges, and identified education, housing, and transportation as the top three budget priorities. Additional pressing concerns of my office include the state of the City's physical infrastructure — a problem highlighted by the deadly explosion in East Harlem — as well as the impact of the City's expired labor contracts and continued effects of the recent recession on social services and employment.

Wear Denim on April 23 to fight sexual assault.

As part of a national drive to raise awareness about sexual assault, Denim Day has been observed each year since 1999; this year's theme is empowering men to speak out against sexual violence. I am co-sponsoring a rally in support to be held on the steps of City Hall Wednesday, April 23, at 12 noon.

Denim Day grew out of an Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans. Since then, participants have worn denim to work or school to raise awareness about this still-difficult issue.

Almost one in five women in the U.S. have been raped at some point in their lives; almost half (44.6%) have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape at some point in their lives according to the Centers for Disease Control. Here in New York City, according to research co-published by the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, one in SIX students — 16% — report experiencing sexual violence at some point in their young lives.

Our latest staff additions.

■ Morris Chan, Community Liaison, is a graduate of Emory with a degree in International Studies, and earned a Masters in Planning, Growth and Regeneration at the University of Cambridge. He speaks four languages.

■ Hally Chu, Policy Analyst, is a 2002 graduate of Cornell and was a National Urban Fellow for the City of Philadelphia in 2012-2013 as part of the MPA program at CUNY. Prior to that, she worked on foreclosure prevention, energy efficiency, and fundraising & development at the Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) Community Development Fund from 2007-2012.

■ Diana Howard, Community Liaison, is about to graduate Hunter College next month with a BA in Urban Studies. She is a public policy scholar at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.

■ Giovanni Puello, Community Liaison, is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Economics and has been working toward his Master's at City College. He is former chief of staff to a State Assembly member and worked for several nonprofits, most recently the Fifth Avenue Committee in Brooklyn.