

<u>The district community office will be relocating to 1485 York Avenue (between 78th and 79th</u> <u>Streets) starting Wednesday, March 29. Please contact us by email or at 518-455-5676 during</u> <u>the transition.</u>

Details on the grand opening of the new community office will be forthcoming.

Dear Neighbor,

Please allow me to share the strides that we are making for the betterment of our great state. I hope you will find the community update to be informative and helpful.

If there is any way that I can be of service to you, my office is just a call, e-mail or visit away.

Best Wishes,

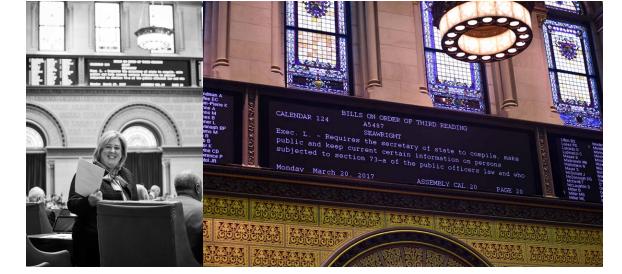
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Seawright Passes Bill Requiring Secretary of State to Collect and Make Public Information on Women in Policy Positions

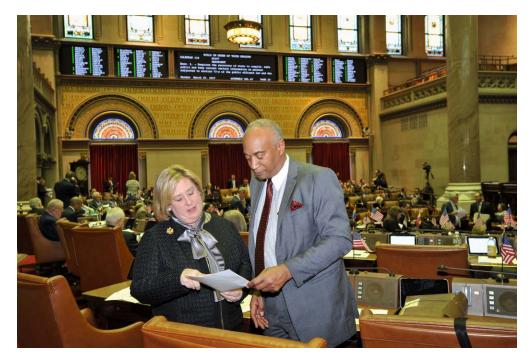


Seawright in the Assembly Chamber where her bill was passed with zero votes in opposition

On March 20, 2017, New York State Assembly passed A5487, legislation introduced by Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright that would identify how many policy-making positions are held by women in New York State Government.

The bill, if signed into law, would compel the Secretary of State to compile a list of positions subjected to the Public Officers Law Section 73-a and a representation of policy-making positions held by women compared to those held by men. The compilation will track the length of time an individual maintains his or her position and compare the amount of positions held by men and women on the Department of State's website. Making this information available will allow us to continue to push for gender equality in government by exposing where more work needs to be done to enable women to achieve leadership positions.

"No woman has ever served in New York State as governor, attorney general, or comptroller and less than 30% of members of the New York State Legislature are women," Seawright said. "It is time to identify where in government gender equality is lacking, and pursue the necessary adjustments to better reflect gender realities in our society. I am hopeful that, by tracking this information and making it publicly available, our state will clear the path of inequities and enable all women to achieve their fullest potential."



Seawright discusses A5487 with Chairman Gary Pretlow in the assembly chamber

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Bringing High School Students and Robbins Plaza Tenants Together for Computer Comfort



From March 20 through April 27, Assembly Member Seawright has organized no-appointment-necessary sessions where volunteers offer assistance to seniors to help with their phones, computers, or other electronic devices. Sessions are every Monday and Thursday from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at Robbins Plaza (341 East 70th Street) in the Community Room.

Christine Quinn from WIN, Council Member Kallos, Senator Krueger, Assembly Member Seawright, and Community Come Together For a New Supportive Housing Unit for Homeless Women and Children



On Friday, March 24, Assembly Member Seawright along with Council Member Ben Kallos, Senator Liz Krueger, Community Board 8 Members, Christine Quinn of Women in Need (WIN), community faith leaders, and principles, parents, and students from East Side Middle School welcomed the supportive housing residence to the Upper East Side.

Senator Liz Krueger and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer launched the Eastside Taskforce for Homeless Outreach and Services (ETHOS) to connect city agencies with non-profits and faith-based institutions providing direct services to the homeless and to build new supportive housing on the Upper East Side.

When construction is completed in 2018, property owners RiverOak and Azimuth Development will lease 17 units to Women in Need, a non-profit that offers shelter and support to homeless women and children in addition to organizing comprehensive programs and services that enable struggling families to succeed.

"I commend Christine Quinn and "Women in Need" (WIN), as well as Council Member Ben Kallos for the 17 new affordable apartments in our community for women and children. Affordable housing remains a number one concern for my constituents. With 150,000 children experiencing homelessness and 80,000 households on the brink of homelessness in New York State, we need to encourage and support affordable housing initiatives. We must ensure that families have the critical resources they need, such as housing that offers security and stability," said Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright.

With over 70% of homeless New Yorkers having families with children, most of them led by women, now is the time to protect our city's most vulnerable citizens with critical resources.

Mentor Seawright and Mentee Gina Sokolovs Attend Women's History Month Annual Mentoring & Civic Leadership Event at Gracie Mansion



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Upper East Siders at St. Patrick's Day Breakfast



Mayor de Blasio Spoke at the Carter Burden Center for the Aging on the Mansion and Millionaire's Tax



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio visited the Carter Burden Senior Center on 74th Street to rally support for his Mansion Tax proposal, which would tax home purchases above \$2 million. The profits from the tax would garner \$336 million and would be allocated to help low-income seniors afford housing by providing them with new rental vouchers for up to \$1,300 a month.

Upper East Side Electeds Come Out Against La Nuit Liquor License Renewal

This week, Assembly Member Seawright and Council Member Kallos sent a letter to the State Liquor Authority to oppose La Nuit Restaurant's request for renewal of its liquor license.

Our offices have received numerous complaints regarding the establishment located at 1134 First Avenue. It has come to our attention that the on-premises liquor license will expire on March 31, 2017 and the restaurant is seeking renewal. For almost two years, the residents near this establishment have been subjected to numerous noise violations, and most recently, an incident that required police action.

On March 15, 2017, Community Board 8 voted down the application for La Nuit Restaurant. Residents of the surrounding area have expressed that they are fearful for their safety. The letter called on the SLA to defend the community by rejecting the restaurant's application.

IN ALBANY

Assembly Member Seawright Discusses Funding for Senior Centers with Mayor de Blasio



Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act Passes in the Assembly

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright has long been an outspoken advocate and defender of civil rights. She stands with the LGBTQ community in demanding an end to discrimination for transgender and gender non-conforming citizens with the passage of GENDA legislation, Assembly Bill 3358. This bill would help to prevent discrimination based on gender identity and expression under the State's Human Rights and other relevant laws. In addition, this bill would treat crimes committed against a person due to their gender identity or expression as hate crimes.

The time has come to ensure equal protections for all in areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations among others. People shouldn't have to hide who they are to take part in our society. Assembly Member Seawright is pleased to represent one of the most progressive and inclusive places in New York State with people of different backgrounds and identities. We can all agree that it is fundamental to afford everyone equal protections under New York State Law with the passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act.

Watch Seawright cast her vote in the affirmative here.

Tampons Are Not A Luxury! Advocating for Free Feminine Hygiene Products



Assembly Member Seawright, Assembly Member Rosenthal, Assembly Member Lupardo, Assembly Member Wallace, and Assembly Member Niou with Kathleen Magee from Equinox, Karen Murphy from Prisoner's Legal Services, and Danielle Wilkins from Averill Park High School

Assembly Member Seawright joined her colleague Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal to call for providing feminine hygiene products at no cost to menstruating individuals in schools, homeless shelters, and state & local correctional facilities

Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, presented Equinox with personal hygiene product donations for homeless women received from the Caucus' "Dignity Drive."



Assembly Member Seawright in Albany with her son, SUNY student Senator Bradley Hershenson, Speaker Heastie, and CUNY Student Senator and Community Board 8 Member Daniel Dornbaum

Assembly Member Meets with New York Civil Liberties Union



NYCLU's Policy Counsel discussed ECPA, GENDA, Police STAT Act, RHA, and the Human Rights Law at the lobby day in Albany.

Women's Builders Council Lobby Day



Women Builders Council hosted their 2017 Albany Lobby Day on Monday, March 13, 2017. WBC represents women in the construction industry and provides services such as legislative advocacy, new business development and professional development with a special focus on leadership. Assembly Member Seawright met new members and discussed investing in New York's infrastructure in the 2017 budget.

New York State Legislature Elects New Member and Reappoints Two to Board of Regents



(From left) T. Andrew Brown, Nan Eileen Mead, and Susan Mittler

As a member of the Assembly's Education Committee, Assembly Member Seawright congratulates T. Andrew Brown on his election, Nan Eileen Mead and Susan Mittler on their reappointment to the New York State Board of Regents.

In a joint session of the Legislature, Brown and Mead were re-elected to serve full terms on the board. Mittler was elected to represent the 6th Judicial District for the first time.

Brown has represented the 7th Judicial District on the board since 2012. In 2016, he was elected by his peers to serve as vice chancellor. In addition, Regent Brown serves as chair of the Regents Ethics Committee and co-chair of the P-12 Committee. He is also a member of the Higher Education Committee and the Workgroup to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color. He is a past chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and a past member of the Cultural Education Committee. He is also a member of the Regents Review Committee, which presides over professional and licensure disciplinary hearings. In addition to his commitment to advancing educational issues and outcomes, Regent Brown is the founder and managing partner of the Rochester-based law firm of Brown Hutchinson LLP.

Mead represents the boards 1st Judicial District. Regent Mead has extensive experience as a public education advocate with demonstrated success in increasing parent engagement, relationship building, and community advocacy and development. She holds leadership positions in several New York City public education advocacy organizations that include the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council, Community Education Council District 3, and Community School District 3 Presidents' Council. Among her higher education credentials is a B.A. in Politics from New York University. Mead also has a career in the financial industry.

Mittler has been an educator in New York State for over 35 years. She was elected by the Ithaca City School District's teachers to nine consecutive two-year terms as President of the Ithaca Teachers Association. She was appointed to the New York State Professional Standards and Practices Board from 2005-2013. While there, she focused her efforts on the development of authentic, valid assessments of educators and students. Currently, Mittler is on faculty at Cornell University in the College of Industrial and Labor Relations in the area of collective bargaining.

The Board of Regents was established in 1784 and is the oldest, continuous state education entity in the United States. The Regents are responsible for the general oversight of all educational activities within the state, presiding over the State University of New York and the State Education Department.

Board members are elected to five-year terms by a joint session of the state Legislature. There is one regent for each of the

BUDGET UPDATE

Budget Proposal Moves New York Forward

Proposed budget preserves and protects programs that put families first

Assembly Member Seawright announced that she helped pass the Assembly's 2017-18 state budget proposal (E.179), which invests in vital programs and services that help hardworking families and move New York forward.

"Now more than ever, we must be vigilant to preserve New Yorkers quality of life and lift those us who are struggling to get by making investments in critical programs and infrastructure to keep New York a safe haven for all," said Seawright.

Investing in public schools

The Assembly's plan provides a total of \$26.3 billion in education funding. That's an increase of \$1.8 billion – or 7.4 percent – over last year, and \$887 million more than the executive's proposal.

It also rejects the executive proposal's repeal of the Foundation Aid formula. Seawright believes the formula is too important in ensuring that resources are directed in the most fair and equitable manner. However, important updates were made to make sure the formula still accurately reflects the cost of educating a child in New York, as well as the number of children living in poverty. The Assembly's proposal makes a commitment to phase in the remaining Foundation Aid over the course of four years, while adjusting and updating the formula to ensure fairness.

Foundation Aid would be increased by \$1.4 billion for the 2017-18 school year for a total of \$17.8 billion, which is \$1 billion more than the executive plan. The Assembly plan also distinguishes Community Schools Aid as an independent category to ensure Foundation Aid and Community Schools each receive adequate funding, respectively.

Expanding tuition assistance and opportunity programs

In order to help students meet rising higher education costs, the Assembly budget proposal increases funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). The maximum TAP award would be raised to \$5,500 per year, a \$335 increase, and then increased to \$6,500 over a four-year period. The proposal allocates \$40 million for Part-time TAP at community colleges across the state.

The Assembly's budget also restores all opportunity programs and increases their funding by \$23.8 million or 20 percent. The proposal allocates:

- \$37.5 million for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a \$5.4 million increase;
- \$41.4 million for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), a \$5.9 million increase;
- \$32.8 million for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK), a \$4.7 million increase;
- \$21.4 million for Liberty Partnerships, an increase of \$3.1 million;
- \$18.4 million for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), a \$2.6 million increase;
- \$13.9 million for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP), an increase of \$2 million; and
- \$1.6 million for College Discovery, a \$225,000 increase.

The Assembly also improves the executive's proposed Excelsior Scholarship program to provide free college tuition to more middle-class families. While the executive's plan would provide free SUNY and CUNY tuition to families earning up to \$125,000 per year, the Assembly proposal builds on this by expanding eligibility for the program and keeping up with the rising costs of college. The Assembly's changes would allow students to take 12 credits for two semesters as opposed to the current requirement of 15 credits per semester, reset the tuition that Excelsior pays every four years to keep up with rising tuition costs, better accommodate special needs students and raise the maximum income level to qualify to \$150,000 in the fourth year of the program.

Investing in public and community colleges

The Assembly budget proposal includes significant funding to strengthen SUNY and CUNY schools, as well as community colleges. The Assembly proposal would:

- provide SUNY with \$150 million, and CUNY with \$100 million, in capital funding to help pay for new projects;
- allocate \$12.9 million for SUNY, and \$6.5 million for CUNY, for community base aid, bringing the total rate to \$2,797 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student;
- restore \$1.1 million to SUNY, and \$902,000 for CUNY, to Child Care Centers;
- restore \$2.5 million in funding for the CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs;
- restore funding for Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs) by \$5 million, bringing the total to \$60 million, and provide \$30 million in capital funding;
- restore Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs by \$2 million for a total of \$6.5 million in funding;
- restore \$600,000 for Graduate Diversity Fellowships, bringing the total funding to \$6.6 million; and
- restore \$18.6 million of support for SUNY Health Science Centers for a total of \$87.9 million.

Implementing a fairer tax code

The Assembly Majority, long-committed to addressing growing income inequality and the vicious cycle of poverty, is pushing for a

progressive tax structure. With the current tax code set to expire after 2017, the Assembly's proposal extends and expands the state millionaires tax to ensure adequate and fair funding for important services that our families depend on. The proposal would implement previously approved middle-class tax cuts while re-establishing higher income tax rates for millionaires and multimillionaires earning as much as \$100 million or more.

Under the new progressive tax structure for millionaires, which would affect roughly 66,000 taxpayers, the state would generate \$7 billion more than the executive's proposal over four years.

The Assembly's proposal offers real tax relief for working families. It expands the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from the current 30 percent of the federal credit to 35 percent. The EITC helps workers earning a low income reduce their taxes and keep up with the rising costs of living. The proposal also enhances the Child and Dependent Care Credit for taxpayers earning between \$50,000 and \$150,000. The credit is based on a sliding income scale for working parents who pay for child care or those who live with a spouse or dependent who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

Fixing problems with the STAR program, rejecting added hassles for seniors

To ensure fair, timely tax relief, the Assembly budget proposal fixes the state's School Tax Relief (STAR) program so that all eligible homeowners receive deserved tax relief upfront as a reduction in their school tax bill.

Changes were made to STAR last year which have proven to be incredibly inconvenient for the affected homeowners. Before the changes, all eligible homeowners saw a yearly reduction in their school tax bill. Now, all new homeowners – those who bought their first home and those who moved to a different home – have to pay a higher school tax bill first, then receive a rebate check in the fall. However, some homeowners have received their checks far later than they were supposed to or have received the incorrect amount.

In addition to repealing the STAR rebate check program, and to further protect seniors' hard-earned and well-deserved property tax relief, the Assembly budget proposal rejects the executive's changes to the Enhanced STAR program. Under the executive's proposal, all seniors eligible for the Enhanced STAR program would have to register with the state and participate in the Income Verification Program. Currently, though, seniors are able to register with their local assessor or register when they file their income tax returns – a process that is far easier and causes fewer headaches.

Supporting seniors

The proposal also provides \$1 million for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and \$1 million for Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs), which help keep seniors in the homes and neighborhoods where they have lived much of their lives, decreasing the need for unnecessary hospital and nursing-home care.

In addition, \$10 million is restored to preserve the right of spousal refusal, ensuring couples do not lose their life savings in the event a spouse becomes ill and needs long-term care.

Protecting and supporting tenants

The Assembly's budget proposes \$6.5 million, an increase of \$2 million over the executive's amount, for the Tenant Protection Unit, which helps ensure safe housing by investigating patterns of landlord fraud and neglect. Seawright said the unit does vital work cracking down on landlords who choose not to follow the law.

The budget also allocates \$2.5 billion for affordable and supportive housing programs, including funding for the following programs:

- \$1 billion for supportive housing;
- \$125 million for senior housing;
- \$125 million for public housing authorities outside New York City and a strengthening of tenant protections; and
- \$100 million for Mitchell-Lama preservation programs.

It also includes funding for two New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) initiatives: \$1.2 million for the tenant watch program and \$500 million for capital repairs – a \$400 million increase over the executive budget.

Helping localities provide necessary services

The Assembly's budget proposal includes \$715 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) – \$50 million more than the executive's proposal. AIM funding provides direct state aid to local governments.

Protecting services for those in need

The Assembly rejects executive budget proposals that threaten Office for the Aging programs such as Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) and NY Connects. The executive budget proposal consolidated transportation funding into CSE, but the Assembly instead restores discrete appropriations and protects counties from additional costs by restoring the local match waiver for part of the funding. The Assembly also provides a \$2 million increase in CSE funding to improve access to these vital services. Additionally, the Assembly dedicates specific funding for NY Connects in the Medicaid program, so if federal funding expires the program can continue.

The Assembly's budget restores \$40.5 million for the 0.8 percent human services Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) across multiple agencies, including \$18.4 million to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), which supports direct care workers. The Assembly also restores \$4 million for the prior year direct care worker COLA. In addition, the Assembly provides \$45 million to support the first year of a six-year plan to create a living wage for direct care workers who provide much-needed care for individuals with disabilities. And, it restores \$1.5 million for the Disability Advocacy Program (DAP).

Investing in affordable care

The Assembly budget proposal also restores funding for Medicaid and other public health programs and implements drug price controls to ensure access to high quality, affordable health care.

The Assembly's proposal restores \$78.8 million to Medicaid programs and \$37.6 million in public health program cuts. The proposal includes measures to:

- provide \$24.6 million to fully restore the 39 public health programs targeted in the executive budget proposal for consolidation and the 20 percent funding cut;
- provide an additional \$200 million over the executive budget proposal in capital to support health care providers; and
- allocate \$14.6 million to the Essential Plan, an affordable health plan for low-income individuals and families, rejecting premium and co-pay increases.

The Assembly budget also includes a proposal to authorize the state's Drug Utilization Review Board to set benchmark prices for drugs that are determined to be high priced, based on disclosures made by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Drugs that exceed the benchmark price would be subject to additional rebates in the Medicaid program, or a surcharge in the commercial market. The Assembly includes language to return the Medicaid pharmacy benefit to the Preferred Drug Program, which would further strengthen the state's negotiating power, as well as requiring the approval of the state attorney general for the recommended benchmark price, in order to ensure the price is adequate to guarantee patient access.

Additionally, the Assembly budget proposal allocates \$26.5 million to restore the existing prescriber prevails provisions in managed care and fee-for-service and reject an executive proposal to limit coverage for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and increase OTC drug prices. It also provides \$700 million in funding to support capital and operating expenses of health care facilities, including \$125 million dedicated for community-based providers.

The Assembly also provides \$11 million to restore the cuts to New York City's public health reimbursement in the executive's proposal.

Protecting the most vulnerable

The Assembly's budget ensures managed long-term care (MLTC) plans are sufficiently reimbursed by the state and that providers pay their workers an adequate wage. The proposal also:

- improves insurance collection for covered Early Intervention Programs (EIP), which help young children with disabilities and their families; and
- allocates \$10 million for children's behavioral health service development.

Protecting the environment

The Assembly's state budget proposal includes funding for environmental justice programs to address inequities caused by environmental damage to poor and disadvantaged communities. It also invests in projects to ensure clean water, air and soil and funds innovative programs to move New York forward toward more environmentally friendly energy use.

The Assembly continues to support and invest in clean energy and alternatives to promote environmental preservation. The Assembly's budget proposal provides \$7 million for environmental health programs, including for children's environmental health centers, air monitoring and Lyme disease control. It also extends the Alternative Fuels and Electric Vehicle Charging Station tax credit for an additional five years to encourage the use of more environmentally friendly cars. Further, as part of the Assembly Majority's pledge to protect disadvantaged communities, which are more likely to be adversely impacted by pollution and are often at higher risk for the negative impacts of climate change, the proposal increases environmental justice funding to \$9 million, including \$4 million for environmental justice grants.

As part of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Assembly's budget includes programs such as land acquisition, funded at \$40 million after a \$7 million increase, water quality improvement projects, funded at \$20 million, a \$2 million increase for the eradication of invasive species, bringing total funding to \$14 million, e-waste collection days, funded at \$1 million and rail trails, funded at \$1 million.

The Assembly's budget also includes EPF funding for green jobs and renewable energy training programs, zero emission vehicles and municipal climate adaptation projects. Total EPF funding is \$300 million.

Additionally, the Assembly is dedicated to protecting local waterfronts, increasing the state's share from 50 percent to 75 percent of project costs to revitalize environmental justice communities.

Further, to help ensure ratepayers aren't unfairly burdened with unnecessary costs, the Assembly's proposal prevents utilities from charging ratepayers a monthly fee to subsidize certain nuclear facilities – until the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) appear before a joint legislative hearing to discuss the public purpose of the fee and its impact on poor and fixed-income ratepayers.

Improving the criminal justice system

The Assembly budget proposal increases and restores vital funding and includes important measures to help reform New York's criminal justice system to ensure that everyone has equal protection under the law. The Assembly budget proposal restores \$2.8 million to support civil legal services and \$6.6 million for various programs, including immigrant legal services, alternative to incarceration services and domestic violence programs.

The Assembly budget also includes legislation that would bring much-needed reform to the speedy trial provisions of New York's Criminal Procedure Law to allow the court, when the prosecutor claims readiness, to inquire as to whether the prosecution is, in fact, ready for trial. Further, the Assembly includes language to enable charitable bail organizations to provide more effective assistance to those charged with a crime who are being held in jail while they await their day in court simply because they are poor.

Additionally, the Assembly budget contains provisions to:

- modernize investigative procedures and eyewitness protocols in order to help convict those who are guilty, as well help prevent erroneous accusations and wrongful convictions;
- improve indigent legal services, and begin transitioning to a statewide takeover of the cost of assigned counsel services in criminal cases; and
- decriminalize public possession of a small quantity of marijuana and seal records concerning old convictions for simple marijuana possession, thereby improving the chances that individuals with such minor offenses can obtain gainful employment and move ahead to a successful, productive life.

Raise the Age

The Assembly Majority remains committed to ensuring age-appropriate treatment of minors when they encounter the criminal justice system and keeping them out of adult facilities. New York is one of only two states (North Carolina is the other) to mandate that all youth ages 16 and 17, charged with any offense, be prosecuted and sentenced in adult criminal court. For years, the Assembly Majority has recognized that treating children like adults in our criminal justice system is ineffective and often results in lifelong negative implications for those 16 and 17 year olds. In response, the Assembly's budget includes a measure to change these standards. The Assembly's proposal would raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age and prohibit the placement of anyone under the age of 18 in any adult jail or prison. This will ensure that the cases of young people charged with a crime are treated in a more age-appropriate forum.

Most individuals under 18 would be adjudicated in Family Court. For that small portion of youth charged with certain serious violent crimes, a youth part will be established within criminal court, which will have judges with specialized training for effectively dealing with young people. The bill would also provide for conditional sealing of certain criminal convictions, raise the age of juvenile delinquency from 7 to 12 (unless the charge is murder, in which case it will be age 10), and provide additional services for youths in family court.

Enhancing legal defense services and reducing unfunded mandates

The Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) oversees the critical legal assistance to low-income and poor New Yorkers who encounter the criminal justice system. However, the cost of the program can financially strain local governments, which affects the quality of services they can provide. That's why the Assembly budget would provide relief to counties statewide by requiring a multi-year takeover of the county costs of public defense services. The proposal would also provide additional funding to support local public defense quality improvements.

In addition to the funding included in the executive budget proposal, the Assembly restores \$6.6 million, including:

- \$1 million for the New York State Defenders Association;
- \$1 million for immigrant legal services;
- \$703,000 for Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) programs; and
- \$609,000 for domestic violence-related civil and criminal legal services.

Cutting taxes for small businesses

The Assembly's budget proposal provides meaningful tax incentives for small and family-owned businesses, making it easier and more profitable to operate in New York State. Under the plan, the corporate income tax rate for small businesses with an income of \$290,000 or less would be reduced to 4 percent from 6.5 percent. An estimated 42,000 businesses would see significant tax relief, helping them grow and create new jobs, noted Seawright. Further, personal income tax filers would have the option to deduct 15 percent of their income from their adjusted gross income (AGI) before the personal income tax rate is applied. This deduction is an increase from the currently allowed 5 percent deduction and would provide relief to over 1 million small businesses.

As part of continued efforts to ensure workers have the skills needed for good, available jobs, the proposal expands the Employee Training Incentive Credit Program to make it easier for companies to include worker training as part of their expansion projects. It also extends the Youth Works Job Program for five years with \$50 million in funding, with \$10 million dedicated to an apprenticeship program.

Improving the Excelsior Jobs Program

The Excelsior Jobs Program offers incentives for businesses to expand in and relocate to New York State by providing tax credits to firms making a substantial commitment to growth through either increased employment or through capital investment in a New York facility. The program, though, is highly underutilized due to excessively stringent thresholds for job creation and capital investment that firms must meet in order to qualify for the tax credits. The Assembly's budget proposal makes more businesses eligible for the incentives to relocate and invest in New York by lowering the qualifying requirements for key industries by 50 percent.

Supporting research and development

Currently, businesses are allowed a research and development tax credit for qualifying research and development property. The Assembly's budget proposal doubles all the current research and development tax credit percentages.

Additionally, under current law, participants in the Excelsior Jobs Program are eligible for a research and development tax credit for eligible expenditures. The Assembly's proposal would double the cap, therefore, allowing businesses to further take advantage of the program as well as expand their ability to grow and create jobs.

Investing in economic development

The Assembly budget provides \$90 million for the Restore New York Communities Initiative, which will help to revitalize our local communities. In addition, \$10 million is provided for the Community Restoration Fund – including \$5 million for New York City

housing preservation and development – to address vacant and abandoned properties that bring down property values and threaten public safety in neighborhoods.

Further, the Assembly's budget proposal provides \$150 million for the executive's Life Science Initiative, allocating \$75 million for public infrastructure and site preparation projects, \$50 million for bioscience research laboratories throughout the state and \$25 million for neurological research clinical trial centers.

The proposal also provides:

- \$10 million for the Centers of Excellence, \$15 million for the Centers for Advanced Technology as well as \$20 million in capital support for them, which help facilitate collaboration between private industry and universities;
- \$10 million for Strategic Investment in Workforce Development initiatives to help ensure employers have access to the skilled workers they need and assist those who are unemployed and underemployed, as well as youthful workers entering the job market;
- \$5 million for the New York Healthy Food and Healthy Communities Fund, to provide financing for food markets to operate in underserved neighborhoods;
- \$2.6 million for the Technology Development Organization Matching Grants, to encourage and attract more research and development funding; and
- \$1 million for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Technical Assistance Program, to help New York businesses compete for federal research and development funding.

Investing in American manufacturers

In an effort to help strengthen the nation and state's manufacturing industries, the Assembly's proposal includes a "Buy American" measure, ensuring preference is given to American-made products in state procurements whenever possible.

Supporting MWBEs

In order to continue its support of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), the Assembly budget proposal extends the MWBE program for an additional two years instead of one year as proposed by the executive. It also allocates an additional \$365,000 toward the program, for a total of \$1 million, to help ensure that MWBE participation goals are met throughout the state.

The Assembly's budget also restores \$300,000 in additional support for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), bringing their total funding to \$1.8 million.

"It's imperative that we provide opportunity to businesses owned by women and people of color so they can continue lifting up our communities," said Seawright.

Increasing transparency in taxpayer-funded projects

The Assembly's proposal makes a major push to increase government transparency in economic development projects by requiring Empire State Development (ESD) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) to maintain a comprehensive statewide searchable database of all funding that flows through these agencies. The provision also requires ESD to certify to the Public Authorities Budget Office that it is in compliance with all of its required reports. Finally, this proposal would require ESD to provide the Legislature with a 30-day prior notification of the intent to distribute funds for any project, program or award.

To increase transparency and accountability within the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs), the Assembly proposal requires any economic development entity which provides recommendations, including council members, to file an annual statement of financial disclosure and adhere to the Code of Ethics and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requirements in the Public Officers Law and subjects the process to the open meetings law.

Improving water safety

The Assembly proposal strengthens the executive's Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017. The Assembly wants to build upon the program in order to assist municipalities by providing grants to improve water quality, which include:

- \$1.1 billion for the 2015 Water Infrastructure Improvement Act to help municipalities upgrade their drinking and wastewater infrastructure
- \$200 million for drinking and wastewater infrastructure improvements in New York City;
- \$138 million for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines;
- \$110 million for inter-municipal regional water infrastructure grants;
- \$110 million for land acquisition projects for source water protection;
- \$80 million for green infrastructure;
- \$80 million to address the issue of emergent contaminants;
- \$70 million for water quality improvement projects; and
- \$50 million for upgrades to septic systems to reduce nitrogen loading.

Assembly invests in infrastructure

Most of the roads and bridges throughout the state are maintained by dedicated local highway departments. However, despite their best efforts, many still need important repairs because the funding hasn't kept pace. The Assembly is committed to helping repair roads and bridges so millions of New Yorkers can use our infrastructure safely. The Assembly's budget proposal increases funding for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) to \$488 million, a \$50 million increase from the proposed executive budget.

Assembly funds the MTA

The Assembly has made it a priority to make sure the MTA gets the funding it needs, which is why it rejected an executive

proposal to reduce operating funding by \$65 million. Instead, the Assembly has opted to fund a \$65 million capital appropriation. This will help the MTA run more efficiently for the millions of people who rely on it.

"When we don't support the MTA, we hurt commuters and our economy," Seawright said. "We need to provide adequate funding so it can continue providing a vital service to residents and visitors alike."

Honoring veterans

The Assembly Majority remains committed to supporting veterans and investing in programs that help members of the military transition into civilian life. This year's Assembly budget proposal includes \$1 million for Veterans Courts and \$675,000 in restorations for various other veterans programs. Veterans Courts help veterans who are arrested for crimes stemming from and exacerbated by the transition from their military service. Many of these men and women are able to get the treatment they need and benefits they've earned through the courts. The additional funding will be used to help recruit more mentors, provide peer support for veterans and improve their access to VA benefits.

Additionally, the proposal provides funding for an on-the-job training program to help veterans interested in the agricultural industry. The program allows veterans to use their military benefits while directly gaining job skills on New York farms.

Looking out for consumers

This year's Assembly budget proposal continues to safeguard consumer rights. The plan includes \$350,000 to create the New York State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA) to serve as an independent advocate and appear on behalf of New York ratepayers in state and federal regulatory proceedings. It also includes \$1 million for intervenor funding for consumer advocacy in utility rate cases before the Public Service Commission.

The Assembly proposal also restores \$505,000 for the Public Utility Law Project (PULP), which represents low-income and rural consumers in utility, telecommunications and energy-related matters.

Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues



The press conference on budgetary priorities called for the inclusion of those priorities in the final enacted budget. Assembly Member Seawright said, "Our state budget needs to fund important priorities for women and low to middle income families. It is more important now in the light of the proposed federal budget that gravely cuts support for middle class families, seniors and our children."

Among the Task Force's Priorities in the One House Budget are:

- \$20 million contingency appropriation for Planned Parenthood affiliates in the event of federal funding cuts;
- restore \$5 million in funding for the Advantage Afterschool program;
- increase funding to \$50 million for Universal Pre-Kindergarten outside of New York City and allow SED to allocate funding based on need rather than an RFP process;
- \$13 million for new child care slots, and restore the \$334,000 cut to SUNY/CUNY Child Care Programs;
- restore Title XX funding of \$27 million to its original discretionary purposes for Local Social Service Districts by removing the mandate to use such funds for child care only;
- restore \$147,000 in funding for Rape Crisis Centers

Seawright Attends The Congressional Award Hosted by Congressman Joe Crowley and Board Member Mitch

Draizin



New York State Congressional Award Ceremony at Hunter College, honoring young scout leaders who have completed the program.

<u>The Congressional Award</u> is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. Our Foundation remains Congress' only charity. The program is open to all youth ages 14 to 23 and is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. Young people may register when they turn 13 1/2 years old and must complete their activities before their 24th birthday.

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Announces \$250,000 In Funding To Support New York Certified Recovery Peer Advocates

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez announced \$250,000 in funding to support New York Certified Peer Advocates. Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPA) are individuals who hold an OASAS approved certification as a peer advocate. Peer advocates are supervised by a credentialed or licensed clinical staff member to provide peer support services based on clinical need as identified in the patient's treatment/recovery plan.

For more information about CRPA and OASAS-approved Certified Recovery Peer Advocate Certification Boards visit: <u>https://www.oasas.ny.gov/recovery/PeerServices.cfm</u>

Seawright to Members of Congress:

"Don't attack care at Planned Parenthood"

Assembly Member Seawright signed on to a letter to every member of Congress to urge them not to attack care at Planned Parenthood because 2.5 million patients could be cut off from lifesaving care. Planned Parenthood health centers mean healthier families, more choices, and fewer unintended pregnancies. They play an essential, lifesaving, irreplaceable role in our communities and our country. Please lend your voice and join us in standing with Planned Parenthood by signing the petition.

ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Bringing Our Resources to You!



Constituent Liaison Loraine Farberg assists constituents at the Roosevelt Island Senior Center.

Cornell Tech TOWN HALL COMMUNITY UPDATE

Cornell Tech will be up and running on Roosevelt Island this fall!

You are invited to a discussion about our programs and our campus.

Wednesday, March 29 7:00 – 8:30 PM The Manhattan Park Theater Club 8 River Road, Roosevelt Island

Hosted by Cornell Tech and The Community and Construction Task Force Visit tech.cornell.edu for more information

The Roosevelt Island Historical Society Presents a Free Lecture: Metropolitan Hospital Goes to the Great War

by Judith Berdy, President

Roosevelt Island Historical Society

New York Public Library Branch on Roosevelt Island

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

The wounded and dying soldiers on the battlefields of the Great War required a new level of medical care. Roosevelt Island's

Metropolitan Hospital played a role as one of a number of American hospitals that sent doctors, nurses and other staff members to run base hospitals in Europe during World War I, as Judith Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, will discuss in a lecture at the New York Public Library Branch on Roosevelt Island, on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

The lecture marks the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I on April 6, 1917 and is sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Tram at 59th Street and Second Avenue or the F train to Roosevelt Island. Take the red bus (no charge) or walk eight minutes north to 524 Main Street.



Sixth Annual Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturday, April 29th!

Four Freedoms Park

12:00 pm-5:00 pm



News You Can Use...

DAILY@NEWS | NEW YORK

<u>Critics voice concerns over Port Authority plan for \$4 taxi fee for area airport</u> <u>trips</u>

Monday, March 20, 2017

DAN RIVOLI

Critics of a plan to charge taxis and Ubers \$4 a trip in and out of area airports want the Port Authority to hit the brakes.

Public Advocate Letitia James and 16 New York State lawmakers wrote a scathing letter to Gov. Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie blasting the plan to charge access fees for all car service trips at Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports.

"We are deeply concerned that this proposal will burden passengers, hamstring companies, encourage illegal cabs, violate personal privacy and circumvent public input," the March 13 letter said.

As the Daily News exclusively reported last month, Port Authority officials are considering a \$4-a-ride surcharge next year for yellow and green taxis and all ehail and livery car trips, to and from the three main airports. Agency officials say the fees are standard at big airports around the country.



Trump Ultimatum: Vote on Health Care Friday or Obamacare Stays

Friday, March 24, 2017

by Leigh Ann Caldwell, Alex Moe and Hallie Jackson

Office of Management and Budget director Mick Mulvaney made clear Thursday evening that President Donald Trump is done negotiating on the hotly-debated health care bill and wants a vote on Friday.

And, if the president doesn't get a vote to repeal and replace Obamacare, he will move on to other priorities, Mulvaney said according to a source in the room during the tense talks with GOP members. A senior administration source confirms to NBC News the "very definitive, very clarifying" message from the president and the administration's intention to move on — should the health care bill fail to move forward — to other matters such as tax reform, trade and border security.

If the bill does not pass, the president would see it as "people in Congress breaking their promises to their constituents to repeal and replace Obamacare" even with a Republican president in the White House," the source told NBC News.

It was a long night for Trump aides who worked late to try and convince conservative House Freedom Caucus members to support the health care bill. Steve Bannon, Trump's chief strategist and senior counselor, met with the group's members to deliver a pointed message: stand and deliver.

Read the rest of the article HERE

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

New York State has setup a new job portal entitled Jobs Express, where thousands of private and public sector jobs are listed. Visit **jobs.ny.gov** for more information on how to apply for these opportunities.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & EVENTS



EARLY DETECTION OF **BREAST CANCER SAVES LIVES!**

American Italian Cance FOUNDATION

Mobile Care Clinic Will Be in Your Neighborhood!

To Provide No Cost Digital Mammograms & Clinical Breast Exams

Eligibility:

- Woman aged 40 and older
- Currently living in New York City
- No Mammogram in the past 12 months

Our services are at no cost to patients. No co-pays required and deductibles are waived. Uninsured patients welcomed.

Hosted by: **Council Member Ben Kallos**



Assembly Member

Rebecca Seawright

@Good Shepherd Plaza: 543 Main St. New York, NY 10044 (Roosevelt Island) Sunday, April 2, 2017





Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

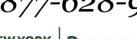
For an Appointment, Call: 1-877-628-9090

9:00am – 4:30pm

Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services



Additional funding provided by the generous support of the New York Funded by a grant City Council, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, NYS Assembly, Susan G Komen Greater NY, NY GreaterGood.org, the RAR Foundation and individual patrons.



STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

NEW YORK Roosevelt Island **Operating Corporation**

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright



& Student Volunteers Present COMPUTER COMFORT FOR SENIORS

Volunteers offer computer comfort to help seniors learn to use computers, phones or other electronic devices! Seniors may use a computer in the lab or bring their own device.

Sessions every Monday and Thursday 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

SESSIONS FROM MARCH 20 -APRIL 27

New York City Housing Authority Robbins Plaza

341 East 70th Street, Community Room Between First and Second Avenues

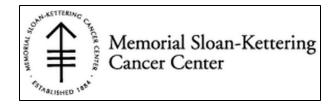
For information about this or any state or local issue, contact Assembly Member Seawright's District Office at 212-288-4607 or SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov



Community Board 8 March 2017

Please stay informed of Community Board 8 meetings and actions. They are "Your Voice in City Government."

Calendar: <u>http://cb8m.com/calendar-meeting_date/2017-03</u> Agenda: <u>http://cb8m.com/content/march-2017</u> Bulletin: <u>http://cb8m.com/updates/march-2017</u>



Free Special Talk About Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 5:00-6:00 pm

MSK Zuckerman Research Center Auditorium (417 East 68th Street)

RSVP to ofd@mskcc.org

During this talk MSK's Abraham Aragones MD, will discuss all aspects of HPV and examine programs that could increase HPV vaccination rates, particularly among minority and immigrant populations most burdened by HPV. Refreshments will be served at 4:30 pm. This talk is part of our new MSK Student Seminar Series, designed to create a learning community at MSK.

Free Event in Honor of National Minority Cancer Awareness Month

Friday, April 21st 2:00 PM -5:00 PM

MSK Rockefeller Research Laboratories Auditorium (430 East 67th Street)

To register, call (212) 719-2943 or email rsvp@sharecancersupport.org.

A discussion of current efforts to improve outcomes for minorities will be led by MSK experts in cancer disparities research. This program will be held in English with Spanish translation services provided.



The New York City Bar Association is hosting a number of events in the coming month. <u>Check their calendar of events</u>, but in particular, they want to highlight:

 March 28th, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: <u>Rikers Island:</u> <u>Past, Present, and Future</u>

There is no cost for any of these programs.

PICK UP YOUR NEW YORK CITY

TAX CREDIT FORMS TODAY AT SEAWRIGHT'S OFFICE

New York City school tax credit / 210 https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/it/nyc210_fill_in.pdf

New York City enhanced real property tax credit / 208

https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/it/nyc208_fill_in.pdf

Claim for Real Property Tax Credit / 214

https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/it/it214_fill_in.pdf

Online App https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/ads/efile_addit214.htm



FREE TAX PREPARATION

AARP is partnering with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House to offer free tax preparation for low and middle income people of all ages.

Wednesdays, February 1st – April 12th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Location: 331 East 70th Street*

First come, first served. Please sign in at the front desk when you arrive. There is a limit to how many returns can be completed in one day, therefore intake may close before 1:00 p.m.

Be sure to bring:

- Government Issued Photo ID and Social Security card
- All applicable 2016 tax documents, including:
 - W-2s, SSA-1099, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-R, 1099-MISC, 1099-B, 1099-S, 1098-T;
 - all forms indicating income tax paid
 - dependent care provider information
 - o unemployment compensation statements
 - o any other income information
- Original Social Security cards for the dependents photocopies are NOT acceptable
- Receipts and/or cancelled checks for itemized deductions, with totaled summaries
- Copy of your 2015 income tax return

For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit aarp.org/taxaide

331 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021 | www.lenoxhill.org

EIS HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

March: "In like a Lion, Out like a Lamb."

EIS is very pleased to see much attention, action and funding being put towards housing issues and the problem of homelessness. At EIS, every day we continue to provide programs and services to meet our mission, expressed by the words of our founder, Gloria Milliken: "Prevention is the only way to end the unceasing tide of homelessness."

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesdays @ 2:30

HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

Individual Consults with experienced housing court attorneys

Attorney: Law Firm of Grimble & LoGuidice, Pro Bono

Wednesdays from 10-3pm

HOUSING COURT BUDDY INTAKE

For those representing themselves in Housing Court: a trained Buddy will assist with Court etiquette, response and visits, including, when appropriate and necessary, escort to Court

EIS Housing Advocates are available to assist with any and all housing issues. Please contact EIS by phone at 212/308-2210 or by email at <u>evictioninterventionservices@gmail.com</u>. You may visit our website at <u>www.eisny.org</u> for details and information.



40 WORTH STREET, SUITE 820 · NEW YORK, NY 10013 PHONE (212) 966-4400 · FAX (347) 521-5732 www.volsprobono.org CALENDAR OF ELDERLY PROJECT *LEGAL ADVICE & REFERRAL* CLINICS MANHATTAN RESIDENTS (60+) ONLY NOTE: VOLS DOES NOT OFFER REPRESENTATION IN COURT

MARCH 2017

• Monday, March 27: Encore, 10:00 AM

APRIL 2017

- Monday, April 3: Hamilton-Madison City-Hall, 9:30 AM
- Thursday, April 6: Hudson Guild, 1:30 PM
- Friday, April 7: Covello, 10:00 AM
- Monday, April 10: Riverstone, 9:00 PM
- Thursday, April 13: University, 10:00 AM
- Friday, April 21: Stanley Isaacs, 10:00 AM
- Monday, April 24: Encore, 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, April 25: Goddard-Riverside, 10:00 AM
- Friday, April 28: Carter Burden, 2:00 PM

VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE, INC. ELDERLY PROJECT LEGAL CLINICS

•	HUDSON GUILD ADULT SERVICES	119 9th Ave (betw W 17* & W 18* Sts)
	First Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.	
	Contact: Dorothy Johnson-Laird, MSW, at 212-924-6710 (fax 212-924-6872)	
•	ENCORE COMMUNITY SERVICES SR CTR Fourth Mondays at 10:00 a.m.	289 W 49th St. (betw B'way & 8th Ave) (St. Malachy's Church)
	Contact: Naryobe Arias, 212-581-2910, ext. 125; naryobea@encorecommunityservices.org; OR	
	Justin Lang 212-581-2910, ext. 119; justinl@encorecommu	
•	GODDARD-RIVERSIDE SENIOR CENTER Third Mondays at 10:00 a.m.	593 Columbus Avenue (at W 88 ^e St)
	Contact: Doris Colon or Priscilla Jimenez at 212 873-6600 (fax 212-595-6498)	
•	KENNEDY CENTER	34 West 134 ^e Street bet Lenox & 5 ^e Aves.
	Alternating Second Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.	(Basement)
	Contact: Michelle Haber, Program Director, at (212) 926-4871 (fax 2	212-868-6909)
•	RIVERSTONE SENIOR LIFE SERVICES	99 Ft. Washington Ave (south of W 168rd St
	Second Mondays at 9:00 a.m.	
AST	Contact: Norma Rodriguez at 212-927-5600, ext. 10 (fax 212-927-56	512)
AST.	F SIDE (listed from downtown to uptown) HAMILTON MADISON HOUSE - CITY HALL SR CTR	100 Gold Street (south of Bklyn Bridge)
·	T SIDE (listed from downtown to uptown)	
•	<u>T SIDE (listed from downtown to uptown)</u> HAMILTON MADISON HOUSE - CITY HALL SR CTR <i>First Mondays at 9:30 a.m.</i> Contact: Christine Huang, Assistant Director, at 212-788-5580 UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SENIOR CTR	
<u>AS1</u>	T SIDE (listed from downtown to uptown) HAMILTON MADISON HOUSE - CITY HALL SR CTR First Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Christine Huang, Assistant Director, at 212-788-5580	100 Gold Street (south of Bklyn Bridge) 189 Allen Street (south of Houston St)
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CONSTRUCTION

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center & CUNY/Hunter College

East 73rd/74th Street and FDR Drive site

Necessary construction activity will take place at the site on Saturday, March 25th, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.

We also received a permit to work on **Sunday, March 26th, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.** This activity is required for crane maintenance on 74th Street and must be done during weekend hours.

Please call the project's Construction Information Line at 212-639-4444 with any questions or comments.

Waste Transfer Station

From Monday, 3/27 through Friday, 3/31, there will be After Hours work starting from 6:00 AM.

TWO WEEK LOOK-AHEAD

Monday, March 20 - Sunday, April 2 2017 East 91st Street Marine Transfer Station

