

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
**BRAD HOYLMAN**

(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



**September 2013**

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update of some of my recent activities that may be of interest. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me directly about any of these issues or other ideas or concerns you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator  
27th District

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### **Calling for Comptroller Audit of State Hate Crimes Statute**

On August 16, in the aftermath of a recent anti-LGBT attack in Chelsea, I released a report on New York's Hate Crimes Law, informed by expert testimony from a Senate forum I held earlier this summer. The report contains four recommendations, including a call for the New York State Comptroller to conduct an audit of law enforcement agencies to ensure they are properly reporting hate crimes and training officers and supervisors in identifying, responding to, and investigating such crimes. It follows a wave of anti-LGBT violence in New York City, a 70% increase over the prior year according to the NYPD -- including an attack on a transgender woman in Harlem in which the victim died from her injuries late last month -- as well as a 27% increase in anti-Semitic incidents across the state. You can find the report on my website [here](#).

### **Presentation on the Financial Myths of Fracking - October 3rd**

On Thursday, October 3, I will be hosting a presentation by Energy Policy Forum Director [Deborah Rogers](#) entitled "Frackonomics: Debunking the Financial Myths of Fracking." The event will take place from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at SVA Theatre, 333 West 23rd Street (between Eighth and Ninth Avenues). Please see the announcement [here](#) for more information. Email me at [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov) or call [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:2126338052) to RSVP.

## **Giving the Keynote at the Eighth Annual West Side Tenants' Conference**

I am pleased to have been invited to give the keynote address at the Eighth Annual West Side Tenants' Conference, to be held this Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Fordham Law School (140 West 62nd Street at Columbus Avenue). All tenants and their advocates are welcome. My remarks will begin at 10:30am and will be followed by workshops on such topics as: housing benefits for seniors, how to find affordable housing, fighting tenant harassment, bed bug remedies, how to make your home more energy efficient and much more. For more information or to RSVP contact Matt Klein at [212-716-1664](tel:212-716-1664) or [mklein@hcc-nyc.org](mailto:mklein@hcc-nyc.org).

## **Civil Disobedience at UN to Fight AIDS**

On September 17, the opening day of a UN General Assembly meeting focused on poverty and public health, I joined executive directors of leading HIV/AIDS organizations, people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their advocates in an act of civil disobedience to draw attention to the millions who lack access to lifesaving treatment because wealthy countries are cutting back on funding. Click [here](#) to read more.

## **Urging Denial of the Proposed East Midtown Rezoning**

On August 7, I submitted testimony to the New York City Planning Commission opposing the proposed rezoning of East Midtown. I appreciate the importance to our city of securing East Midtown's position as a premiere business district, but I have serious reservations about the proposal, which was drafted with limited community consultation and rushed into the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). I am disappointed that the Department of City Planning refused to slow this process down and work with affected communities, preservationists and advocates for a more livable city to develop a more thoughtful, bolder rezoning that would truly revitalize East Midtown. Please see my testimony detailing my major concerns with the proposal [here](#).

## **My Testimony on the NYCHA Draft Annual Plan**

Over the summer, I submitted testimony at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Draft Annual Plan Public Hearing for FY2014. I addressed some of the many shortcomings in the Plan and expressed my deep concerns regarding the authority's proposed infill development plan, the cuts to Section 8 vouchers, the deteriorating conditions in NYCHA developments across my district, and the City's failure to address NYCHA's fiscal challenges. Please see my testimony [here](#).

Since that hearing, NYCHA has modified its plans and public review process for infill development. On August 16, the Authority released a Request for Expressions of Interest with plans that include commercial components in parts of seven of the eight developments slated for infill development, which would trigger ULURP. It is absolutely critical that the full scope of any and all infill development be subject to ULURP to ensure that public housing residents and the broader communities of which they are a part can help shape their neighborhoods. Critically, ULURP, which binds the disposition of property by other Mayoral agencies, would give the City Council veto power over any infill development – an indispensable step toward ensuring broad community input.

## **Standing with Striking NYC Fast Food Workers**

On August 29, I was proud to join striking fast food workers at a Wendy's in lower Manhattan in solidarity with them and thousands of fast food workers across the country who staged walkouts to demand fair wages. Average hourly pay for fast food workers is the lowest of any occupation in the city, and even those who work full-time earn less than federal poverty guidelines. In fact, right now, our government is subsidizing highly-profitable fast food chains by providing cash assistance, food stamps, and public health insurance to their underpaid workers. Fair pay and rights in the workplace are moral imperatives. I will continue to work with New York Communities for Change and Fast Food Forward, who are leading the campaign here in New York City to ensure that fast food workers win the wages and rights they deserve.

## **Working with Senator Schumer to get Bike Cars on NY Amtrak Lines**

In my last report, I noted that I had joined U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and my colleague, New York State Senator Little (R-Queensbury), at a press conference calling on Amtrak to add baggage cars capable of carrying bicycles on their Adirondack and Ethan Allen trains, which run from Penn Station to Albany and Saratoga, and other points north. I'm pleased to announce that Amtrak heeded our call and began accommodating bicycles on board in a successful demonstration program that took place in late July. I'm optimistic that this program will become a full-fledged convenient and affordable way for New York cyclists to reach the beautiful bicycle trails of the Adirondacks and surrounding areas. The initiative will generate revenue and create a new tourism link between New York City and Upstate, as well as promote bike vacations, surely one of the healthiest and most environmentally friendly forms of recreation.

## **Renewed Call for Ban on So-Called 'Gay Cure' for Kids**

In the wake of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's August 19 signing of legislation prohibiting state-licensed mental health professionals from practicing sexual orientation change efforts, also known as "conversion therapy," on minors, I was joined by my colleagues State Senator Michael Gianaris and State Assembly Member Deborah Glick in renewing our call for passage of similar legislation we carry in the New York State Legislature. Conversion therapy is among the worst frauds in history and has been discredited by the American Psychological Association and other leading mental health organizations. Please click [here](#) to see an August 22 *Daily News* story on our efforts, and click [here](#) to see our joint statement on a recent federal court ruling that upheld a similar statute in California.

## **Promoting Local Greening Initiatives**

On July 24, I held a district-wide organizing meeting on adopting and gardening the tree pits in the pedestrian islands adjoining bike lanes (also known as "bike lane tree pits"). The meeting gave constituents the opportunity to learn about gardening best practices and the resources available to volunteer gardeners, as well as to meet and organize with others in their neighborhoods. Attendees heard from a representative of [TreesNY](#), a non-profit organization whose mission is to "plant, preserve, and protect" New York City's trees, as well as members of [Chelsea Garden Club](#), a coalition of neighbors who plant in the bike lane tree pits along 8th and 9th Avenues between 17th and 39th Streets. The PowerPoint presentation prepared by this pioneering group of bike lane tree pit

gardeners is available for download on my website [here](#). If you're interested in this or other greening initiatives, please contact me at [\(212\) 633-8052](tel:(212)633-8052) or [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov).

### **My Efforts to Halt Deadly Meningitis Outbreak**

In mid-August, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) officials expressed cautious optimism that a dangerous outbreak of meningitis among gay and bisexual men had been contained. I am proud to have worked with DOHMH, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, State Assembly Members Deborah Glick and Danny O'Donnell, and other LGBT colleagues to help combat the meningitis outbreak. In addition to authoring a [new law](#) to make the meningitis vaccine available to adults through pharmacies beginning next month, I spearheaded a successful effort to recruit online hookup sites to send warnings to their NYC area users regarding the meningitis outbreak; successfully worked with the NYS Department of Financial Services to direct private insurers to provide notification about vaccine coverage; and organized an informational meeting with Brooklyn State Legislators and DOHMH. DOHMH believes that enough of the at-risk population has been vaccinated to provide protection for now but it is still important for all gay and bisexual men who hook up online to get vaccinated. If they cannot obtain the vaccine from their health care providers, Health Department clinics can administer the vaccine. Locations are listed on the Site Locator on DOHMH's website [here](#) or contact me for more information.

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