



DEFENDING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Housing is the number one issue that constituents bring to my office. We have to make sure that the law is protecting tenants not landlords, and that landlords aren't incentivized to put profits over people. To ensure that this is the case, I've sponsored and co-sponsored pro-tenant legislation needed to protect you from predatory landlords and developers. These bills are part of a comprehensive strategy to combat gentrification and keep tenants in their homes. This includes a bill to keep rent controlled apartments affordable, a bill to end vacancy decontrol, and a bill to keep landlords from raising preferential rents dramatically.

In addition to fighting for you with legislation in Albany, we've continued to meet with tenant leaders across the district to make sure concerns are being answered. In November, we will be focusing on HDFCs and NYCHA, and hosting events on both topics. We have also participated in an event to inform the community about housing succession rights. To learn more about your right to pass your apartment on to your family and loved ones, contact:

Mobilization for Justice

<http://mobilizationforjustice.org> (212) 417-3700

Legal Aid Society

www.legal-aid.org (212) 426-3000

ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION

Right now, there is a 0% unemployment rate in the cyber-security field, and millions of jobs are unfilled. I was glad to be able to introduce Danika Rux, the Superintendent of Community School District 5 to Ravi Pendse, the Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Computing and Information Services for Brown University. Together we had a conversation about how we can ensure that students in Harlem's public schools are prepared to fill those jobs.

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

When I heard that the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) at Morningside Gardens had lost its state funding, I immediately reached out to the appropriate state agencies to see what could be done. With the help of other elected officials, community activists, and the wonderful residents and staff at Morningside Retirement and Health Services, we restored the state funding. This will ensure another year of excellent programming that will enrich the welfare of the neighborhood at large.

We also have been holding more Rent Freeze events with the NYC Department of Finance. If you're a senior or you have a disability, go to nyc.gov/rentfreeze or call 311 to learn more.



Talking with Seniors and Rent Freeze Programs

Celebrating a new playground for students in Harlem

"November is a great time to reflect on what we're thankful for. As we approach the close of the year and the coming legislative session, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to hear from so many of you about how we can improve our community for everyone."

- Brian A. Benjamin

Let us be of service!

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Shred Day

Saturday, November 11 | 11am-3pm

106th between Columbus and Amsterdam

I'm partnering with Assemblymember O'Donnell's office to provide a location that you can safely and securely shred documents. To RSVP or to learn more, call Neil Reilly at 212.222.7315 or email him at nreilly@nysenate.gov.

HDFC Forum

Wednesday, November 15 | 6:30pm

163 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor | New York, NY 10027

HDFCs represent an invaluable part of our affordable housing stock. At this event I invite you to discuss practical plans to help distressed HDFCs in the short term, and brainstorm about long term goals for affordable home ownership in the city. To RSVP or to learn more, call Neil Reilly at 212.222.7315 or email him at nreilly@nysenate.gov.

West Side Town Hall

Thursday, November 30 | 6:30pm

Red Oak - 135 West 106th St | New York, NY 10025

I want to hear from you! Join me to hear about my legislative priorities, and to ask questions about how I can fight for you in Albany. To RSVP call Neil Reilly at 212.222.7315 or email him at nreilly@nysenate.gov.

Volunteer Awards

Do you know someone who should be honored for a lifetime of outstanding community service? In December, I want to celebrate the everyday people who hold our communities together, often without getting the credit they deserve. To nominate a friend, call Shana Harmongoff at 212.222.7315 or email her at harmongo@nysenate.gov before November 30.

Election Day! Tuesday, November 7

Make your voices heard! Vote on Tuesday November 7. To find your poll site visit nyc.pollsitelocator.com or call the NYC Board of Elections at 212.487.5800. In addition to the city candidates you will get to vote for, there will be three important questions on the back of your ballot. The first of these is a vote on whether or not New York State should hold a constitutional convention. I believe that a convention would risk the protections for education, social welfare, housing, conservation, the right to organize, and public pensions that our state constitution includes, as expensive delegate races would likely be won by insiders with connections to wealthy special interests.

To learn more about the candidates and the ballot proposals, visit www.nyccfb.info and click **NYC Voter Guide**



Community residents with questions and concerns at our East Harlem Town Hall



At Community Board 7 with Roberta Semer, Chair

