

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



Dear Neighbor,

Yesterday was Census Day 2020 and I hope you take 10 minutes aside today to fill out the Census. [Watch my video on how to and why it's important here.](#) Completing the census questionnaire will ensure that New York will get the federal dollars and representation we need. Billions of federal funding are distributed according to the results of the census, that's why we need you to participate! Plus it is confidential no matter your immigration status.

As always, my office is here to help. If you need assistance, leave a voicemail at 212-979-9696 or email help.district74@gmail.com and someone will get back to you shortly.

Harvey

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Budget Update

Yesterday, I voted no on the capital bill. How we treat those struggling the most defines the type of society we live in. A capital budget in which we made allocations for prisons, but not public housing is not the New York I believe in. I voted no on behalf of the 400,000 NYCHA tenants in my district and across New York City.

During times of crisis, our state has raised revenue in the past. There are 112 billionaires in the state who can afford to pay more, and I fought to raise their taxes. I am disappointed that we missed an opportunity to deliver true budget justice in this time of need.

You can watch me speak on both bills [here](#) and [here](#).

CUNY Virtual Town Hall

CUNY RISING ALLIANCE PRESENTS:



**THE REAL CUNY
EXPERIENCE
VIRTUAL**

TOWNHALL EDITION



TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020 @8:00PM-9:30 PM

Register here (first 100):

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vpMsfumqrzkt0cyedUPhL5HB7AE_KuttCA

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

We are going to be speaking with community organizers and elected officials to talk about the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and to have a REAL and AUTHENTIC conversation in hearing from YOU, the CUNY community on issues you are experiencing, resources and support you may need during this time.

OUR FIRST GUEST:



HARVEY EPSTEIN
NYS ASSEMBLYMEMBER
74th DISTRICT



MODERATED BY:

**JAMELL N.A.
HENDERSON,**
M.P.A. M.P.P.
CUNY RISING
ALLIANCE
COORDINATOR

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[Click here](#) or the flyer above to register to join me on Tuesday, April 7th at 8pm to talk about issues CUNY is facing during COVID-19. We will be talking about the available resources and support that may be available to you during this time. Don't miss it.

Letters to Leadership

I am working hard to make sure leadership in Albany is aware of the problems facing not only my community, but people all over New York State. I have written a handful of letters on a number of issues to ensure your voices are being heard and fight to do the right thing through these trying times. Below are some of the letters that I've written:

- [State Liquor Authority License Moratorium](#)
- [Support for Small Businesses](#)

Parks Update

- NYC Parks' playgrounds and the amenities contained within, such as basketball courts, handball courts and restrooms, are closed until further notice.
- The citywide enforcement effort to encourage social distancing among park goers remains in place, involving multiple City agencies, including NYPD, OSE, the Sheriff's Office,

DEP, DSNY, DOB, and FDNY. The City will continue to monitor conditions and determine if more severe restrictions are necessary.

- For all updates on park service changes and closures, please refer to the NYC Parks website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.

Social Security Update

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

The Department of the Treasury will soon provide information about economic impact payments under the recently enacted law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. The Treasury, not Social Security, will be making direct payments to eligible people.

Please continue to use the online self-service options whenever possible. Local offices are closed to the public but are available by phone. People can find their local field office phone number by accessing the [Field Office Locator](#). To allow available agents to provide better phone coverage, the agency is temporarily changing the National 800 Number hours starting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The hours will change from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time to 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time. The agency is experiencing longer than normal wait times on the 800 Number and asks the public to remain patient, use its online services at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call their local office.

Additional COVID-19 Resources and Updates

- Starting next week, the Billie Jean King Center will become a hospital to take pressure off of Elmhurst Hospital with 350 new, fully staffed hospital beds taking non-ICU COVID patients starting next Tuesday, April 7th.
- Alternate Side Parking is suspended for another two weeks until Tuesday, April 14th.
- DOHMH has added different breakdowns of the available data to their website in an effort to be as transparent as possible. Please note, the numbers are constantly changing and it is not instantly updated:
 - [Case counts \(including age, gender and borough breakdown\)](#)
 - [Deaths \(including age, gender and borough breakdown along with pre-existing conditions\)](#)
 - [Hospitalizations](#) (including age, gender, and borough breakdown)
 - [Emergency Department Surveillance](#) (date by age group)
 - [Percent of patients testing positive](#) by zip code
- Meals for Seniors: DFTA has transitioned to 100% meal delivery, rather than grab and go. Seniors should call their local senior center for more information if they haven't already received meals. They can also call DFTA's Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) or 311.
- NYC COVID-19 Engagement Portal: DOITT has developed a [portal](#), as a new tool to help guide the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The portal is available in 11 languages and allows New Yorkers to self-report COVID-19 information and will help New York City both better communicate with affected people and identify areas that may need enhanced response. Inputs are confidential. People without internet access or who need help, can call 311.

- **Mental Health Resources:** This is a stressful time for New Yorkers. Resources are available for New Yorkers by contacting 1-888-NYC-WELL or Texting “WELL” to 65173. For more information visit: <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us>
- **Report Labor Issues:** If you believe an employer is violating either existing labor laws or recently issued executive orders by the Governor, please contact 311, the Attorney General’s office at (212) 416-8700 or via email at Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov.
- **Small Businesses:** The Small Business retention grant program will officially close to applicants on Friday at 5pm, but the City will continue to serve small businesses through the Small Business Continuity Fund, which is also first come first serve. This is a loan to give businesses up to \$75,000 to businesses with up to 99 employees. Businesses can use this loan to supplement their payroll and other costs. The Federal stimulus package also provided \$366 billion in support for small businesses. More information [here](#).
- **Benefits available for New Yorkers:** You can find a visual representation of eligibility for various government benefits called: [I’ve been affected by Coronavirus \(COVID-19\). What are some of the benefits I may be eligible for?](#) Monitor nyc.gov/workers for ongoing updates about workplace laws as NYC seeks to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- **Discrimination:** If you believe that you have been discriminated against because of a perceived connection between your race, national origin, or disability and the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, you can file a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Rights by calling 1-888-392-3644.

Job Opportunities



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
2020 SPRING SEASON**

NYCHA is hiring **TEMPORARY PER DIEM WORKERS** to assist with general maintenance at NYCHA properties throughout the city. Please call your local NYCHA Property Management Office for more information and to schedule an appointment to complete the required forms.

Required documents:

Two forms of identification (originals only) to verify your identity and eligibility to work in the United States. Examples of acceptable documents include, but are not limited to:

- Driver license
- U.S. Passport
- Social Security card
- U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
- Employment authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
- Original or certified copy of birth certificate



You must be:

- At least 18 years of age
- Able to perform heavy physical labor



Duration of employment:

You will be called as needed during the spring season

Wage: \$15.00 per hour

In the News

1. [New York Lawmakers at Budget Impasse](#) - WFUV News
2. [With Tenants Planning Strikes, Calls for a Rent Freeze Grow Louder](#) - The Independent
3. [A glaring gray area for Stuy Town, Blackstone and the city](#) - The Real Deal