

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



Dear Neighbor,

Last week was hard. We lost thousands of New Yorkers. As we confront this crisis together, I hope you found time to be with family and friends during the holidays, if you celebrate.

There are some indications that we're through the worst of the outbreak: hospitalizations and the net change in intubations are down. That does not mean we're ready to restart life as we knew it before this crisis. These promising numbers suggest that the measures we have taken such as requiring all non-essential workers to stay home, and practicing social distancing, are working. We need to keep it up. At the end of the month, the Governor will reassess whether the [NYS PAUSE](#) restrictions should continue, be amended, or be lifted.

In the meantime, you will find some resources and important information about voting, public school closures and more below.

Harvey

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Information on Voting

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.15 issued April 9, 2020, voters may request and vote via an absentee ballot for any election held on or before June 23, 2020 due to the potential to contract the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

To request an absentee ballot, voters may fill out an absentee ballot application and check "temporary illness or physical disability" as the reason they are requesting an absentee ballot.

A voter may request an absentee ballot as follows:

- Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at your county board of elections.
- You may also download a PDF version of the New York State Absentee Ballot Application Form:
 - [Download English Form \(📄 485KB\)](#)
 - [Download Spanish Form \(📄 521KB\)](#)
- Upon completion, applications must be mailed, emailed or faxed to your [county board](#) no later than the seventh day before the election or delivered in person no later than the day before the election.
- You may also request an Absentee Ballot by sending a letter to your county board of elections. The letter must be received by your county board no later than seven days before the election. The letter must contain the following information:
 - your name and date of birth
 - the address where you are registered
 - an address where the ballot is to be sent
 - the reason for the request.
- **The letter may be sent via mail, email or fax.**

Visit the Board of Elections [website](#) for more information.

Fighting to Save 75,000 Jobs for Young New Yorkers

Last week, Mayor de Blasio announced the decision to cancel the Summer Youth Employment Program, which connects young people with businesses and nonprofits around the city and provides them with the opportunity to develop skills and connections they can use to launch their careers. Critically, SYEP provides stipends to tens of thousands of young New Yorkers, many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It's the height of irresponsibility to cancel such a program as our city is hit with a major economic downturn sparked by this current crisis. In a [letter to the Mayor](#), I called on him to rethink the cancellation of SYEP and adapt the program to work safely as we weather this pandemic.

Update on NYC Public Schools

Mayor de Blasio has said NYC public schools will remain closed for the rest of this school year for two main reasons (1) public health (2) academics. Read a letter from the mayor and the schools chancellor explaining the decision [here](#) and be sure to visit schools.nyc.gov for the latest information.

Resources for Small Business Owners and Non-Profits

Takeroot Justice and Albany Law school have put together resource guides for small business owners and non-profits to help them navigate this difficult time. Information provided includes how the Governor's executive orders may impact your business, what protections exist for commercial or non-profit tenants, and how to access state and federal aid. Visit the links below for more information:

- [Commercial Lease FAQ's](#)
- [Commercial Leasing in a Public Health Crisis: Community Economic Development Clinic Offers Resources and Information](#)

You may also be interested in the Small Business Legal Relief Assistance SBLRA's resources:

The SBLRA coalition is a group of legal service organizations and law firms providing FREE, holistic, focused telephonic consultations with pro bono lawyers assisting NYC small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is eligible?

(1) Small businesses (2) Self-employed (3) Nonprofits (4) Cooperatives

What issues can SBLRA assist with?

1. Financial Assistance Programs – loans and grants offered by the government and private institutions (What programs are right for me and how do I apply?)
 2. Tax (What are the tax implications of raising funds for employees?)
 3. Commercial Leases (Do I need to pay rent next month? How do I negotiate?)
 4. Contracts (What to do if the crisis prevents me or another party from performing?)
 5. Employment (What should I consider if I need to let employees go?)
 6. Insurance (Does my policy cover loss of income in this context?)
 7. Intellectual Property (How do I protect my work and trademarks?)
 8. Other
Interested?
- | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| General | Business | Issues |
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Contact any of us at the email addresses below:

Dale Charles (Impacct Brooklyn) at dale_charles@impacctbk.org

Julian Hill (TakeRoot Justice) at capacity@takerootjustice.org

Arthur Kats (Volunteers of Legal Service) at microenterprise@volspobono.org Legal Services NYC at 917-661-4500

Lawyers for good government has created a nationwide program to help small businesses affected by COVID-19. Visit their [website](#) to learn more about their [COVID-19 Small Business Remote Legal Clinic](#).

Update from the New York Public Library

The New York Public Library (NYPL) is a primary source of information for many of its patrons. As such, they continue to provide remote access to our essential resources, including innovative educational platforms for patrons of all ages, helpful tools to guide employees and businesses - both large and small, and social service information. During this crisis it is more important than ever that the library continues to serve as a resource for free information geared to these needs.

Take a look at the following resources provided by the NYPL:

- For Job Seekers: NYPL's Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL) continues to provide [career services](#)
- For Small Business (Employers, Entrepreneurs, Employees, Business Owners): [COVID-19-specific](#) information and resources
- For Communities: NYPL's [community resource](#) page covers Wellness, Housing, and Food Security, among other community needs

- For Families: NYPL is collaborating to bring resources to students of all ages including:
 - [Academic resources](#)
 - [Resources for educators](#)
 - [SimplyE](#)
 - For All: While we continue social distancing, you can still complete the Census in three ways:
 - Online at [My2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
 - By phone (844) 330-2020
 - Paper form
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Ways to Help

It is inspiring to see people stepping up to set up mutual aid networks and other donation / volunteering efforts. Here are some ways to help fellow New Yorker during this crisis:

[Ipads to Hospitals](#) - In many hospitals across New York City, patients are tragically dying alone, separated from their families due to restrictions on visitors. Ipads to Hospitals is trying to bridge this physical gap between sick or dying patients and their loved ones by organizing the donation of iPads to hospitals in need.

[Vision Urbana](#) - Is providing regular food distribution to low income seniors in our community.

[City Harvest](#) - City Harvest is committed to rescuing and delivering food for the 2.5 million New Yorkers who were depending on us before the COVID-19 crisis, and the thousands more who need us now, as the devastating economic impact of this pandemic becomes a reality.

Job Opportunities

During this challenging public health crisis, CAMBA is continuing our work in providing 24/7 services to homeless singles and families. We have urgent hiring needs for essential workers who provide critical services in supporting our shelter programs. Each of CAMBA's shelters offer clients a supportive, structured, therapeutic, safe and drug-free facility. Comprehensive services are provided to successfully transition adults and families into permanent or supportive housing.

Our urgent openings include:

- Maintenance Workers, all locations and shifts
- Security Guards, all locations and shifts
- Shift Supervisors (including per diem opportunities), all locations and shifts
- Residential Aides, all locations and shifts
- Social Workers (LMSW and LCSW), all locations and shifts

Prospective employees should email their resume to submitresumes@camba.org.

CAMBA offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Our Growing Resource List

Our office has compiled a list of resources for constituents dealing with a variety of issues during this crisis that you can view [here](#), including:

- How to get free food, and food delivery
- Unemployment concerns
- Help with paying rent
- Educational resources
- Guidance for seniors
- Help for small business owners
- Mutual aid networks
- Ways to donate to others in need

We will continue to update it as more resources become available, or as information changes.

Volunteers Needed

Our office has been helping with food deliveries and making calls to constituents to assess needs and make sure everyone is safe and cared for during this time.

If you are interested in making calls or helping distribute food, respond to this email and I will connect you to my staff!

In the News

1. [A glaring gray area for Stuy Town, Blackstone and the city](#) - The Real Deal
2. [Advocates, pols press city to open thousands of hotels rooms for homeless](#) - AMNY
3. ['Not a Budget Anybody Should Be Celebrating': Democratic Legislators Displeased with Albany Compromise](#) - Gotham Gazette